Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 12:34 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on Revitalising the Gulf
Attachments: MotuoraSubmission.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Kia Ora Revitalising the Gulf Team,

here is a submission on the proposals from the Motuora Restoration Society.

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

---

s 9 (2)(a)
Chairperson, Motuora Restoration Society

s 9 (2)(a)

Motuora
Restoration Society
Restoring Flora and Fauna on
Motuora Island

23rd October 2022

Dear Revitalising the Gulf team,

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Department's Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals.

I'm writing on behalf of the organising committee of the Motuora Restoration Society Incorporated. The Society is a registered charity and we have been working for over thirty years on a successful project to restore the flora and fauna on Motuora.

We welcome the proposals which have been presented and congratulate all those who have worked so hard over the past few years to reach this stage. We hope to see legislation enacted at the earliest opportunity which will ensure the new protection measures provided by the SPA and HPA designations.

In addition, we have the following comments.

We are disappointed that the proposals are so timid and that most of the Hauraki Gulf will remain outside of marine reserves, HPAs and SPAs. As a first step we consider that at least 30% of the sea area should be protected by HPAs and that it should all be an SPA.

It is concerning that the seas around the Mercury Islands have not been included in either SPA or HPA designations. The islands are biologically important and at least some of the seas around them should be protected.

We understand that at least some parts of the Gulf seafloor have already been significantly damaged by trawling or dredging activities. We suggest that all of the areas already damaged, and therefore where fishing is no longer happening, should be considered for SPA status.

In regard to the seas immediately around Motuora, we would like to see additional protection put in place to complement the significant land-based environmental enhancement achieved by our Society. The beneficial connection between a healthy, biodiverse terrestrial environment and the adjacent marine environment with two-way flows of nutrients and the eventual enhancement of the marine environment is widely understood. In addition, we are concerned that fishing and other activities will be displaced from HPA 10a to the nearest adjacent waters which are those around Motuora.

We would welcome the following additional protections:

1. Extend the proposed marine SPA 10b to the south and west to join with area 11b
2. Extend the proposed marine HPA 10a southwards to at least 1 km south of the southernmost tip of Motuora.

Yours sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)
Chairperson.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 12:38 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on Revitalising the Gulf Proposal
Attachments: Revitalising the Gulf submission [redacted].docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

I attach a submission on the 'Revitalising the Gulf' proposal

Thank you
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Submission on '*Revitalising the Gulf*' - Hauraki Gulf Marine protection plan

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

As a conservation scientist that has been studying and undertaking research into improving biodiversity throughout Aotearoa I recognise the critical state of our marine environment, particularly in the Hauraki Gulf where I grew up. Growing up on Waiheke Island has deeply connected me to the Gulf. I have been privileged to work and volunteer in and around the gulf throughout my youth and conservation career and have been involved in a range of conservation projects protecting and restoring a range of taonga on many of the motu in the gulf. I have been fortunate to be able to experience the results of conservation actions on some of our most treasured motu (eg. Hauturu-o-toi). Currently the Hauraki gulf is in a critical state, with overfishing and continued ecological degradation proven through years of research and consecutive state of the gulf reports. Without immediate and considerable action, the precious ecosystems and species that call the gulf home will vanish and along with them their associated ecological and cultural values.

I ***support*** the overall plan to improve marine protection throughout the Hauraki gulf ***however I do not support the absence of complete marine protection areas (i.e. marine reserves) in the 'Revitalizing the Gulf' proposal***. At present total marine protection areas, or marine reserves, cover a tiny 0.33% of the total Hauraki Marine Park. While the 'Revitilising the Gulf' proposal includes many high protection areas, these areas still allow for some level of harvesting in the form of cultural harvest practises. While I acknowledge the importance of allowing areas in which cultural harvesting can continue to promote kaitiaki by mana whenua and restore their relationship with the moana that has been broken since european arrival, total protection marine reserves are still a vital tool in our toolkit that allows for complete restoration of marine habitats. Marine reserves are the only scientifically proven way to provide critical, long term restoration of the marine environment. They allow for populations of long-lived species to recover and long habitat recovery. They complement rahui in a way of providing secure protection, and provide legal security to continue the tradition of establishing untouched areas of coastline to aid regeneration of marine taonga.

I advocate for the inclusion of additional marine reserves into the proposed 'Revitilising the Gulf' plan, such as the already submitted Hākaimangō – Matiatia Marine Reserve proposal off the NW coast of Waiheke Island. Inclusion of such complete no-take areas will strengthen and enhance the current proposal of

protected areas across the gulf. This single marine reserve would increase the area of total marine protection from the minuscule 0.33 to a still small 0.575% and protect an important ecological transition area between the inner and outer gulf. This would still allow for plenty of additional areas throughout the gulf where recreational and traditional harvesting may occur but support regeneration of critical habitat that will contribute to overall marine restoration throughout the inner gulf. The Hākaimangō – Matiatia Marine Reserve is the only new marine reserve proposal in the last 20 years, and following its submission has already received strong support, both nationally (93% in support) and locally (95% support from Waiheke residents) as well as from mana whenua (70% support). ***The Hākaimangō – Matiatia Marine Reserve proposal should be approved and included in the Revitalising the gulf plan.*** This marine reserve will act as an important site where both mātauranga maori and western science can benefit from monitoring, study and observation on the recovery of marine life. If established at the same time as the proposed protection areas in the plan, this would be a perfect example site to compare marine regeneration across different protection strategies, and could be a useful guide as to how harvesting rates and protection levels can promote biodiversity outcomes. Very few studies have been able to monitor the effects of different protection levels, and including a range of protection areas, that includes marine reserves would provide an ideal opportunity to do so. This would also provide an excellent collaboratitve opportunity between mātauranga and western tools, in a way that both maori and western approaches can work together for Kaitiakitanga. Marine reserves are another tool we can use to help restore kaitiaki in the marine environment, and they, along with other high protection areas will fully support and promote biodiversity and cultural values across the gulf.

The ‘Revitalising the Gulf’ plan already proposes to extend the size of two existing marine reserves, acknowledging the importance of these places for restoring marine biodiversity. Including no-take marine reserves in ecological strategic locations will strengthen the outcomes of the ‘Revitalising the Gulf’ plan and leave a lasting, permanent legacy of Kaitiakitanga for the Gulf.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 12:43 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission re marine protection proposals
Attachments: DOC The Noises submission s 9 (2)(a) .pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Hi,

Attached is my submission regarding marine protection proposals. Please confirm that you have received this document.

Thank you.

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

SUBMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED PROTECTION ZONES DESIGNED TO REVITALISE THE HAURAKI GULF AND ITS MARINE LIFE

FROM: s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]
s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Email s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]
Phone s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

I wish to make a submission regarding the proposed protection zones as per the following link - https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2022-consultations/help-revitalise-hauraki-gulf/?fbclid=IwAR2NsiQ_9EXFO35CqnJ-hoOK-6uDJ2mFJlUhdCKTbpnLDldRfqAeeQz7CZ4%C2%A0

I submit that I am pro-conservation but opposed to the proposal to implement any more marine parks in the Hauraki Gulf area.

If you take areas 5 and 14 for example, which are heavily used for recreational fishing, these are areas that are close to Auckland and well used.

The reason that DOC wants to preserve these areas is due to underwater structure only, and the benefits that brings. DOC should be looking at how they can form new areas with designed man-made underwater structures, as is found in Sydney Harbour.

If we create underwater structure this is can be an infinite resource. We are not limited to existing natural structures. The flow-on effects would achieve the desired results in the areas that DOC wishes to lock up.

The cable zone is up to 7km wide by scale, protects a cable that is 100mm wide, and has been in place for 100 years. 100 years ago people navigated by sextant, now everyone has a GPS and they know exactly where they are. If the assumption is that the cable is in the centre of the cable zone, that would allow 2.5km of already protected and preserved area to be available for man-made structure on either side of the cable itself (allowing for a 1km safety zone no-go area either side of the centre). Clearly this would need to be undertaken in consultation with the cable owner, to ensure the safety and integrity of the underwater cable. If designed, fish-friendly structures were carefully lowered to the bottom on GPS co-ordinates every 40 metres, this would result in circa 500 new marine structures in an already protected area that would add to the Gulf's resources without restricting any current activity.

In my view, DOC is taking the easy option with its proposed additional marine parks in the Hauraki Gulf, by drawing lines on maps without spending any money. DOC should be looking at creating structure in already protected areas to increase the resource. This is my personal view and I do not represent any organisation or other person(s) in making this submission.

Submitted by
s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]
s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 4:10 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on marine protection proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Kia ora,

My name is s 9 (2)(a).

I am submitting as an individual, who has always lived by the hauraki gulf and is part of a family of keen recreational fishers, divers and shell fish collectors.

I strongly support more protection of marine life in the gulf, the proposed changes, and work to provide better nursery habitats for marine life.

Thank you for your dedicated work to protect our gulf. Keep going!

Ngā mihi,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 4:10 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Letter of Support for the Noises Inclusion in the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

To: Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Hon. David Parker
Minister of Conservation, Hon. Poto Williams
c/- Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation
by email: seachange@doc.govt.nz

Oct 22, 2022

Tēnā kōrua, Minister Parker and Minister Williams,

SUBMISSION TO REVITALIZING THE GULF MARINE PROTECTION PROPOSALS

1. I would like to send congratulations on the release of the marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi. From my own visits to the Hauraki Gulf area over the last 40 years, I consider that it is an amazing maritime area, very much worth preserving and protecting.

2. This submission is on behalf of myself, as well as Ocean Voyages Inc, a global yacht chartering company and Ocean Voyages Institute a 501(C3) non-profit, public charity organization, based in Sausalito.

General Comments

3. I have had the pleasure of visiting the Noises area on 6 separate occasions over the years. I am very pleased for your careful consideration of suitable marine protection for The Noises and I am pleased by the inclusion of the Ōtata / Noises Islands HPA as part of the broader marine protection proposal package.

4. I support the proposed marine protection package in its entirety including 12 High Protection Areas, 5 Seafloor Protection Areas and the extension of protection adjacent to two current marine reserves (Cathedral Cove and Cape Rodney).

5. I acknowledge and support the Government's work to recognize customary practices of Mana Whenua within a context of marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf.

6. The Noises islands are predator free; have outstanding conservation values; contain exceptional native vegetation and the most diverse seabird communities in the inner Gulf. They are also home to a range of rare native vertebrates and invertebrates including gecko and wētāpunga.

7. Complex and dynamic nutrient flows are at play between the terrestrial and marine environments, particularly aided by seabird derived nutrients. Implementing a High Protection Area around The Noises islands as proposed

encompasses the extensive subtidal reefs that connect the islands and rock stacks and would complete essential protection of both land and sea habitats.

8. From the perspective of someone who has spent the majority of my life sailing and exploring the oceans of the world and though Ocean Voyages, the yacht chartering company I founded, sent many thousands of people to explore ocean areas with particular focus on the Pacific Basin, I know that the protection and preservation of the Noises area as well as the other good work you are doing will make Auckland the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand an extremely appreciated area for people from around the world to come and visit by yacht.

9. Ocean Voyages Institute has been focusing on cleaning plastics up- mid ocean by using sailing cargo ships and removing derelict fishing gear and consumer plastics. From the work of the Institute, I have seen first hand the vital importance of ocean restoration work.

10. I have had the pleasure of seeing the result of marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, "hope spots" as my friend Sylvia Earle calls them. A wonderful example of this work is the Cabo Pulmo area in Baja Mexico. This region was over fished and was becoming quite sparse in terms of ocean life. It then was protected by Mexico as a National Marine Park and recognizes as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This is considered one of many impressive achievements in Ocean Conservation globally. The reef of Cabo Pulmo is a treasure of Mexico's Baja Peninsula and has over 800 species of marine life, which have returned to this region within a few years of protection.

11. Through Ocean Voyages Institute, and our associates we could provide information and data on many areas around the world which have been restored by becoming MPA'S.

We believe that you have many wonderful treasures within Hauraki Gulf and the waters of New Zealand. We applaud your research , planning, and consideration of the most important regions to protect. We strongly recommend your inclusion of the Noises. Please let us know any ways we may be of assistance. We wish you every success with the wonderful work you are doing on behalf of all of us and future generations to come.

With appreciation for your efforts and consideration

Sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 4:29 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: The Noises, HPA,
Attachments: The Noises 2022-10-22 s 9 (2)(a) [redacted].pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Please see the attached letter in support of The Noises.

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

[redacted]

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

s 9 (2)(a)
[redacted]

October 22 2022

Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Hon. David Parker
Minister of Conservation, Hon. Poto Williams
Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation: seachange@doc.govt.nz

REVITALISING THE GULF - MARINE PROTECTION PROPOSALS

The Noises Islands enjoy rare conservation features, and serve as habitat for vital ocean life. Respected and appreciated throughout New Zealand and the world at large, this ecosystem hosts habitat that is essential for the wellbeing of invertebrates, fish, seabirds, marine mammals and other unique life.

The ecological and economic values of maintaining a High Protection Area (HPA), such as The Noises is substantial. By securing such protected areas, essential ecosystems enjoy the opportunity to extend their life sustaining values into surrounding waters and other areas.

These, in turn, help sustain ocean environments that maintain vibrant fish populations which are much needed in our world of globally-declining ocean ecosystems. The value of such ecosystems will only increase in this world of ever increasing human population and consumption.

Please insure that The Noises enjoys the full protection that it deserves.

Most sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)
[redacted]
s 9 (2)(a)
[redacted]
[redacted]

.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a))
Sent: Sunday, 23 October 2022 7:55 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf protection zone proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

While I fully support the concept of providing enhanced protection to the Hauraki fishery, I would like to make two observations which I ask to be considered.

The SPA proposed south of Tiri Matangi and the Tiri channel are directly alongside the existing "no fishing" cable protection zone. This creates a very large single area which I feel has a disproportionate local effect on a popular fishing area. The cable zone is already a massive SPA.

Adjacent to this combined zone is Gulf Harbour Marina - one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere - and will therefore force many boats to travel much further to fish, with the consequent increase is fuel emissions and costs. Moreover, the Gulf Harbour boat ramp is hugely popular with often over 100 boat launches per day - most of which are small boats that will now have to travel twice as far to promising fishing spots, with the inherent safety risks of small boats venturing further our to sea.

My second concern is the proposal to offer special access to Māori through historic fishing rights. I believe that this a misinterpretation of the Waitangi settlement, which said that all New Zealanders would have equal rights. This insidious one sided approach to community rights and access is already creating a lot of resentment from non Māori, which could ultimately reduce Māori support rather than enhance it.

Regards
s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPad

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 7:45 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

:

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
Our moana needs all the help we can give her!Make your submission here

Some suggestions below:

What marine reserves have you visited with EMR?

Talk about what you enjoyed about your experience and how your experience of a marine reserve has shaped your view of marine conservation.

Some ideas could be what you saw in the marine reserve vs your local area, the size and number of fish, the amount of kelp forests and marine life, any cool animals you saw or enjoyed seeing etc.

Why do you think we should have more marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf? Why is this proposal important?

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 8:25 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

:

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
Make youbmission here Very good idea .Make them very big with Small area in the middle of the Hauraki Gulf that you can fish in.This proposal is critical to help the gulf survive the fishing/pollution pressure we put on it.
Lots of enjoyment at goat Island and mayor Island reserves and cathedral cove. More marine life in the protected areas I'm sending this on behalf of my 5 children and 11 grandchildren

Some suggestions below:

What marine reserves have you visited with EMR?

Talk about what you enjoyed about your experience and how your experience of a marine reserve has shaped your view of marine conservation.

Some ideas could be what you saw in the marine reserve vs your local area, the size and number of fish, the amount of kelp forests and marine life, any cool animals you saw or enjoyed seeing etc.

Why do you think we should have more marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf? Why is this proposal important?

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 9:19 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hi, My name is s 9 (2)(a) , I live on s 9 (2)(a) . I am a fisher and diver. I support the Revitalising the Gulf proposal because I have seen the decline in the Hauraki Gulf and want to see it restored for my children and their future children to enjoy the area as I did when I was a kid. I would also like to see the Waiheke Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve included in the proposal as currently there are no new marine reserves proposed and scientific evidence shows that we need to be aiming for 30% no take marine reserves to have a long term sustainable ecosystem.

Thanks

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

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 9:25 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

:

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
My father was a decorated marine biologist who worked tirelessly his whole life to protect and educate people about the marine world.
I have seen the best marine reserves in the country, semi protected, and also areas with zero protection, and can honestly say the difference is staggering and beggars belief.
Not only that but the shifting baseline I have observed in my own lifetime is disturbing to the utmost degree. People now think its 'normal' to only see 3 or 4 very small fish when they go snorkeling. This is NOT okay.
If the same things happening in our oceans were happening on land where is it visible to all there would be enormous protests; imagine an entire herd of elephants being scooped up on a daily basis.
More marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf are not only important but ESSENTIAL to ensure future generations actually get to see marine animals, let alone enjoy catching a fish in a non protected area off the back of a small dinghy with their grandad. Without marine reserves there are no havens for fish to live, to breed, to recover.
Its so disappointing how bureaucrats never listen to scientists who are screaming at them to do something until the thing they warned about has happened. Then then wonder why and want it fixed - but some things can't be fixed when it's too late. That's what we are staring down the barrel of.
Please do something about it.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 12:10 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Marine Protection Proposals
Attachments: Seachange Government proposals for more marine protection for Tikapa Moana.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora,

Please find attached my response to the Government proposals in regard to more marine protection for Tikapa Moana (The Hauraki Gulf)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Government proposals for more marine protection for Tikapa Moana (the Hauraki Gulf) arising from Seachange conversations and report.

Introduction

As a, then, committee member of the Hauraki Islands Branch of Forest and Bird I was involved in early Seachange conversations in Tamaki Makaurau. Both then and now I have been involved in projects, submissions and further conversations around the state of Tikapa Moana. I have attended many Gulf forum events and read many of their reports which conclude that the health of this important marine area has been declining for years. My conceptualization of the cause of this decline includes decades of over-fishing (commercial and recreational), plus destructive fishing practices e.g. bottom trawling, pollution (which includes sedimentation from poorly managed coastal development, farming runoff, and local body dumping practices). My belief is that we will need multiple solutions to start to turn the Gulf's health decline around. I therefore, believe that national government should legislate, facilitate and maintain pressure on industry and local authorities to implement a suite of marine protection tools for Tikapa Moana.

Response to Current Proposals

Overall I support the current proposals which come out of the Seachange report. However, some of them do not go far enough and some tools are missing.

High Protection Areas (12)

I agree that the current Marine Reserve Act has a number of failings and is due for a review and rewrite. It is a one size fits all approach to marine protection and does not take into account e.g. iwi customary kai moana practices, nor does it properly acknowledge the place and potential part-solution of traditional Maori methods of protection e.g. rahui. While High Protection Areas are an excellent additional marine protection tool I consider that the international science and national science suggests that more non-take areas are very important in situations where the health of a marine area is in a critical state. Some of these may not need to be 'forever' no-take areas and will have a 'life-time' depending on marine health recovery. No-take areas provide, something equivalent to our most important land based national parks, e.g. a fish 'hatchery', a non-disturbed environment where the natural process of recovery can occur and then seed species beyond its boundaries.

I do support the suggested placement of HPA in the Hauraki Gulf, especially in relation to the Noises. I would like to see more of these contiguous to the coastlines of our treasure islands including Waiheke Island.

Seafloor Protection Areas (5)

Bottom trawling has been a very destructive fishing practice, destroying the benthic composition of the seafloor. While I support the five areas proposed for seafloor protection, my personal view is that bottom trawling should be banned from the whole of Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf seafloor. I have made submissions to Government on this issue via various channels.

Notwithstanding the above view I would like to see, as an interim measure, more than five areas added to the proposed Seafloor Protection Areas. I, would, especially like to see a Seafloor Protection Area around Aotea and where local iwi have identified 'hatchery-type', breeding areas for particular species of fish/shellfish. Given that an invasive seaweed is now devastating part of the seafloor around Aotea, such a ban on bottom trawling becomes even more important as the risk of

transferal of this invasive species on 'trawl' equipment to other parts of the Gulf is, I submit, very high.

Missing from the proposals on Seafloor Protection is the need to ban 'fill' etc dumping within the boundaries of the Hauraki Gulf Islands Marine Park. We would not allow such 'pollution' creating practices within land based National Parks.

Protected Areas (2)

I support these proposals if they lead to extensions to the existing Marine Reserves. Scientists have outlined the need for Marine Reserves to have large enough areas that boundary fishing does not devalue the 'breeding' amenity values of the reserves.

Missing Tools from the Proposals

Apart from what has been said earlier in relation to some no-take reserves having an important role in saving and revitalizing the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana I, also, have a view that not enough has been proposed in how to deal with the land-to-sea adverse impacts on the marine environment. These include poorly managed (from consents to implementation) coastal developments, farm run-off issues and wetland and estuary degradation. Pollution is a huge factor in the decline of Tikapa Moana, particularly in the in-shore marine areas, which plays an important part in the breeding cycles and feeding needs of many of the marine area's fauna. Over a long time period the water cleaning mussel beds have become practically non-existent in Tikapa Moana and NGO solution focused action to re-seed them is going to need more input and financial help from local and national government.

Another tool I would like the Government and DOC and their appointed and elected agencies to explore is a similar measure to what has been implemented for the Whanganui River and Te Urewera National Park. This amounts to giving The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park or/and Tikapa Moana legal 'personhood' status. This protection tool measure was eloquently argued for at the latest Gulf Forum Conference (18th October 2022) by Dr Dan Hikuroa and Dr Greg Severinsen. I exhort Government Ministers and DOC officials to listen to this presentation when it is uploaded to the Gulf Forum website.

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)
[redacted]

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 2:13 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission by s 9 (2)(a)
Attachments: Marine Reserve submission s 9 (2)(a) - Oct 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please see attached my submission regarding extension of the Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

SUBMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED EXTENSTION OF
TE WHANGANUI A HEI (CATHERDRAL COVE) MARINE RESERVE - 24 OCTOBER 2022

SUBMITTER :

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

I have owned a property at s 9 (2)(a) for the past 32 years. I support the general goals of the extension of marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf.

I support the proposed extension of the northern boundary of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) marine reserve to include Waikaranga Island etc.

I support the inclusion of the southern most point of Mahrangi Island in the extended marine reserve.

I **DO NOT SUPPORT** the extension of the marine reserve to include the western section of Hahei Beach.

- This same proposal to include part of Hahei Beach was canvassed when the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve was first proposed several years ago, submissions were made at that time and the decision was made to **not to include** the beach in the marine reserve. The same reasoning behind that decision still stands today.
- There is no scientific evidence provided to show that including part of Hahei Beach would significantly benefit the extended the marine reserve.
- Hahei beach is a very popular recreational beach visited by many thousands of tourists throughout the year. It is illogical to have different rules for different parts of the same beach. Enforcement of rules associated with the marine reserve amongst thousands of first time visitors and their children etc would be practically impossible.
- It is assumed that the new marine reserve boundary part way along Hahei Beach would be delineated with some sort of significant marker/post/signage. Hahei Beach is a pristine beach environment which should not be polluted by significantly visual man made structures.
- Hahei Beach is very popular with dog owners who walk their dogs along the length of the beach. It is assumed that this would be restricted if half of the beach was included in the marine reserve ?
- From a practical perspective, the current marine reserve boundary at the western end of Hahei Beach functions very well, do not restrict the recreational activities of residents and visitors and as such is well respected and observed. Unless there is a significantly compelling reason to move this boundary, it should be left in its current position.

ENDS

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 2:22 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Te Whanganui a hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To Whom it may concern,
I am a resident of s 9 (2)(a) and would like to express my opinion about the proposed extension to the marine reserve. I am in agreement with it apart from the extension onto Hahei beach.

Hahei Beach is a popular, busy recreational beach. The town has large numbers of visitors, many staying locally in baches. Many people bring dogs and on a typical summer day there will be dozens of dogs and owners responsibly walking their dogs on the beach. There are access points at either end of the beach allowing for a circular or loop walk.

If the marine reserve is extended onto the beach then dogs will not be allowed and then dogs will be crowded at one end making the beach unpleasant and unnecessarily overcrowded. There will also be an impact on the other recreational uses of the beach including that of responsible business operators.

There are already a lot of restrictions for dog owners and locals are very good at observing the rules on the Pa site, the Cathedral Cove Path and the Dotterel nesting sites during nesting season. Hot Water Beach also has dog restrictions as do areas of DOC land inland.

To restrict dogs from going on Hahei beach would be a step too far without enhancing the Marine Reserve.

Kind regards,
s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 3:30 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Kina Hauraki Gulf Seachange submission
Attachments: Kina Hauraki Gulf Seachange submission.pdf

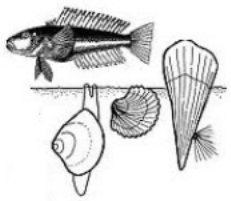
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Director-General,
Department of Conservation,
PO Box 10-420,
Wellington 6140.

Please find attached a submission on behalf of the Specialty & Emerging Fisheries Group on the Hauraki Gulf Seachange proposals.
Yours faithfully

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



SPECIALTY & EMERGING FISHERIES

s 9 (2)(a)

Ph s 9 (2)(a)
Email s 9 (2)(a)

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

24th October 2022

Re: Submission from the Specialty & Emerging Fisheries Group on the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

This submission is made on behalf of the Specialty and Emerging Fisheries Group (S&EF). The contact person is s 9 (2)(a), s 9 (2)(a) email s 9 (2)(a)

S&EF Group is a representative collective of commercial fishing associations operating mainly niche fisheries and markets*, and represents approximately $140 million in annual economic return. S&EF Group includes the commercial kina fishery, which is (potentially) greatly affected by this proposal. Accordingly, S&EF Group supports the submissions from the Kina Industry Council and Sea Urchin NZ Ltd, and agrees with all points made in their submissions.

Should a hearing be held on this issue, then the submitter would like to be heard.

Yours faithfully

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)
SPECIALTY & EMERGING FISHERIES GROUP

*S&EF Group includes commercial North & South Island eel fisheries, Bluff oysters, SUR fisheries, Chatham Islands Finfish, BCO5, BUT5, Giant kelp harvesters and various FLA3 fishermen.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 4:01 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission for n Proposed Marine Protection Zones

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Tēnā koutou

I support the proposed marine protection areas, but I also consider that the proposed protections are not as extensive in geographic scope as they should be.

The damage that has been done to the Hauraki Gulf is well known. Present generations are not best placed to assess what has been lost - we inherited something depleted. In order to restore the Gulf we need to be led by science and kaitiakitanga, not commercial concerns, and not the loudest voices of recreational fishers.

Marine protection areas are only part of the picture but bolder action is required there and everywhere else.

One aspect of the proposals I was troubled by was a lack of comment, let alone focus, on detection and enforcement in MPAs.

We have spent a lot of time staying beside Te Matuku marine reserve. It is regularly fished, and very rarely patrolled.

DOC does not have the resources to effectively patrol the reserves we do have - two boats, infrequently on the water.

Marine reserves are only going to be effective if people believe they will be caught fishing them. If Te Matuku is anything to go by then the battle is lost before it has begun.

There are many possibilities for better detection and enforcement. They will need to be developed and deployed before the new MPAs are implemented.

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 4:07 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Fwd: Correction to s 9 (2)(a) Hauraki Gulf proposals feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Hauraki Gulf proposals feedback
Date: Mon, 24 Oct 2022 10:50:00 +1300
From s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
To:"seachange "@doc.govt.nz

Please ignore the previous submission and use this one instead.

FEEDBACK ON 'REVITALISING THE GULF' PROPOSALS

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the 'Revitalising the Gulf' proposals.

My name is s 9 (2)(a). I am submitting as an individual.

I agree that the Hauraki Gulf is a taonga and in urgent need of revitalising. Key to this is lifting fish stocks.

I welcome more marine reserves to protect the health of the Gulf. However, it will not achieve the stated objective if some people continue to fish these areas.

All Aucklanders and their visitors have a responsibility to protect the Gulf, including Maori.

Iwi talk often about their role as kaitiakitanga. They should be leading by example.

My recommendation is that the proposed **12** 'highly protected zones' should be upgraded to 'no-take' zones, as **should the extensions to the 2 existing marine reserves.**

I feel very strongly about this. Hypocrisy does not sit well with New Zealanders.

We are all in this together.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 5:22 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Feedback on Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf Proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To the Department of Conservation,

Feedback on the Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf proposals.

Like thousands of Aucklanders, I enjoy sailing and fishing in the Hauraki Gulf but share concern about the gradual but incessant deteriorating health of the Gulf ecosystem.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the creation of more marine reserves to enhance the health of the Hauraki Gulf and a consequent increase in the population of fish, indigenous sea plants, the varieties of shellfish, and crustaceans.

I place very high importance on the establishment of systems and regulations to effect the necessary changes in the Gulf.

It is also important to me that all marine protection mechanisms are both inclusive and transparent.

I disagree with the establishment of new 'High Protection' areas which will not provide appropriate recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all users of the marine environment.

I believe that granting customary take rights only to iwi is contrary to the collective responsibility we all have to protect and revitalise the Hauraki Gulf.

Equality before the law is fundamental to our tradition of western democracy and is guaranteed under UN Human Rights provisions. Te Tiriti o Waitangi expressly states that everyone in New Zealand has 'ngā tikanga katoa rite tahi' - equal rights.

No-take marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act are widely recognised as the best way to revitalise marine ecosystems including restoring the Gulf.

It seems to me that the creation of High Protection Areas as proposed introduces a political dimension into what should be entirely an ecological issue. The late Sir Peter Blake's adage: *'Unless it makes the boat go faster, forget it'.*

The proposals should be focused entirely on the task at hand: Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf.

I recommend the 'High Protection Areas' be replaced with more marine reserves and that these reserves be designated strictly 'no take' areas – for everyone.

I support the proposed new 'Seafloor Protection' Areas.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 6:29 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

I support establishing high protection areas and seafloor protection areas to protect and restore the Hauraki Gulf.
I suggest more areas are required to be included. Humans are being very greedy.

Kind regards
s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

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

s 9 (2)(a)

#GiveNothingtoRacism

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 7:29 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on Sea Change Plan
Attachments: I wish to lodge my disagreement with the proposed High Protection Areas.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please find attached my submission in objection to the proposal.

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

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s 9 (2)(a)

We do not accept responsibility for attachments made by others to this email.

Feedback on "Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals: Government action of the Sea Change Plan".

Submitted by: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a) [redacted], whom I am submitted on behalf of, and who are in agreement with my submission below in objection to the proposal.

I wish to lodge my **disagreement** with the proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs). I have fished the area off Martins Bay (Kawau Bay) represented by your area "10a" and the area of 10b for 40 years now since my grandparents retired to s 9 (2)(a), and the area has never been in such good health. I still have members of our family living in the area, and I still fish the area multiple times each year.

Despite what the reports claim (reports which are now based on outdated information, and claiming snapper stocks are at an unsustainably low % of pre-European biomass despite no updated reports being released presumably as you don't like the fact it shows a remarkable turn around in snapper stocks in the past 20 years), the Hauraki Gulf has never been in such good health, with snapper abundant all year around, pilchard and anchovy schools migrating through at different times of the years, kingfish in abundance, and sharks in numbers like never seen before. Kahawai schools and Jack Mackerel schools are also prolific, better than they have been in over 30 years. The area is simply in outstanding condition, and the reduced recreational and commercial takes over the past 20 years, and the voluntary limits imposed by a large number of anglers, have worked extremely well at increasing the biomass.

The only species to be struggling are crayfish and to a lesser extent, scallops, which can easily be addressed by a no-take period of 5 years on Crays, or until such time as they regain in numbers. But to incorrectly claim all fish stocks are in dire straits, is utter misleading, and plays on the emotive response of the population who never use the gulf for gathering kai moana.

I have no objection to the Seafloor Protection areas being established, but there is no justification for the HPA areas, particularly area 10a.

Area 10a is an important social area for many families who use Martin Bay as a camping ground, fishing off the rocks, or kayaking out for a fish in this area. Mullet Point (the point to the north of Martins Bay), is the only readily accessible rock ledge with casting access to relatively deep water, in the entire Kawau Bay area, allowing successful rock fishing.

I also object to HPA areas 1 and 8a, north of Little Barrier and the western islands of the Mokohinaus. Both these areas, are naturally protected by their distance from shore, limiting fishing to larger boats, and fine weather windows. There is no justification for these areas. When I on the rare occasion get the perfect weather window to venture further out for a chance, these areas around the islands, provide the perfect safe fishing area, close to the islands, allowing shelter should the wind pick up. To remove fishing from these 2 areas, is again unjustified, and unfair. I have little objection to areas of no-fishing being set up further out from these islands, but the waters within say a km of these islands, should not be included, as these are important safe fishing zones, and are in no way under fishing pressure.

I don't fish areas 5, 14, 11a or 4, but these are clearly also popular fishing areas, and again, there is no legitimate justification for these being HPAs. All that would be achieved from making these HPAs, would be to move those fisherman into the other remaining popular fishing areas, meaning those areas would see increased fishing pressure, defeating the intended purpose of the HPAs.

Your report is very misleading. It states on page 25 that "stocks of several important species found in the Gulf, including lobster and snapper, are below fisheries management targets for quota management areas that include the gulf". It does not say where, when or how these "targets" were set, and whilst agreeable in terms of lobster, there is no way anyone who has been fishing the same area of the gulf as I have been for 40 years, would agree snapper stocks are in any way in a bad way. They have never been so good, and have seen a remarkable increase over the past 20 years. Your report then quotes "anecdotal evidence that some fish stocks are locally depleted". This is a load of rubbish, non-factual, and just pandering to the greens. Let you make these statements in a call-out box, to draw readers attention to this nonsense. Your report then finally acknowledges that fish stocks are in fact in a better state than 30 years ago, however, this is only mentioned once, and certainly isn't in the same call-out box for emphasis that you have used for your purposely misleading and emotive "anecdotal evidence".

If there are specials such as lobster, or scallops, put restrictions in place, lowering the allowance take limit, or creating a no-take period, for those particular species. But to apply a blanket HPA is unwarranted.

Submitted by s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

[redacted]

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 9:10 pm
To: Sea Change
Cc: s 9 (2)(a)
Subject: submission
Attachments: CCF_001354.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please accept this my submission to the Hauraki Gulf proposal...
Thanks ,
s 9 (2)(a)

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) **or** s 9 (2)(a) **email** 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.

Yours faithfully

s 9 (2)(a)

28/10/22

s 9 (2)(a) manager
Sea Urchin NZ Ltd.

Sea Change

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2022 9:29 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: submission re marine protection proposal for Hauraki Gulf
Attachments: Kate submission marine protection.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

(Also see as attachment below)

Submission for *Revitalising the Gulf* Marine Protection Proposals

[redacted] resident, 24.10.22

My name is [redacted] and [redacted] On a clear day, I look out across the Hauraki gulf to Hauturu and Aotea. Commercial fishing from Little Omaha cove, (Leigh Harbour) has diminished drastically in the 20yrs I have lived here, and we have now seen the collapse of crayfish and scallop numbers.

I have a passion for snorkelling and explore the coastal waters around Leigh most days and visit marine reserves such as Goat Island and Poor Knights whenever possible. I have been astounded and thrilled to witness the extraordinary explosion of marine life at Deep Water Cove (Bay of Islands) since the rahui began there a decade ago and I feel privileged to regularly take people to visit and snorkel there to showcase NZ marine life.

I regularly volunteer to help with sea bird research on offshore islands and at Tawharanui Regional Park. 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/Tīkapa 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: Monday, 24 October 2022 10:29 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Feedback on Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals
Attachments: HG MPA submission_[redacted].docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora

Attached is my feedback to the Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals. My submission reflects 20 years working on marine protection around the world and my role, between 2010 and 2018, as Director of the Kermadec Rangitāhua Ocean Sanctuary Campaign. I have also contributed over the past decade to the drafting of the IUCN MPA and OCEM Guidelines, work that shapes and informs the attached submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important New Zealand marine conservation dialogue.

Ngā mihi
s 9 (2)(a)

To: seachange@doc.govt.nz

From: [redacted]

Re: Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals

1. You are seeking feedback on the *Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals*. In doing so you have published an Information Document, to which this submission responds.

2. This submission acknowledges the work of the Sea Change Stakeholder Working Group (2013-2017), the consultation undertaken with mana whenua and key stakeholders in the development of Revitalising the Gulf (released 2021), and the ongoing consultation with mana whenua.

3. This submission focuses its attention on the definitions and instruments proposed to support the establishment of *"19 new protected zones in the Hauraki Gulf"*, namely the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill, High Protection Areas (HPAs), Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs), and marine reserve extensions. It also discusses that status of the 4 cable protection zones (CPZ) and 2 identified marine reserves.

4. Given the assertion on Page 7 of the Information document that the proposed *"protected areas would also bring us a step closer to achieving global goals and targets under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)"* the key reference document used in this submission is the **IUCN Guidelines for applying the IUCN protected area management categories to marine protected areas**, Second Edition 2019 (http://www.europarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/IUCN_Guidelines_MPAs.pdf).
The Guidelines set out the definition and categories for the establishment and reporting of marine protection areas (MPAs) to the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Once reported those MPAs are included in the World Database of Protected Areas. National Reporting against the CBD targets should align with the IUCN Guidelines.

5. As a staff member of the [redacted] I contributed to the development and refinement of the Guidelines, including through co-authorship of a white paper assessing New Zealand's Benthic Protection Areas (and their failure to meet marine protection definition and criteria).

Summary of Feedback

6. This submission gives feedback to the marine protection proposals set out in the Information document. At a headline level this feed back can be summarised as follows:

    - Preferred Option: That the establishment of new *protection zones* across the Hauraki Gulf be through amendments to the ***Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000***. This course of action is preferred to the bespoke 'Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill' proposed in the Information document. That option risks the 'siloisation' of marine protection and other marine protection tools at a time when an ecosystem wide approach to Haruaki Gulf protection, restoration and resource management is needed. In addition, and based on the internationally adopted IUCN MPA Guidelines, the reality is that the 'protected zones' to be established under the proposed Marine Protection legislation (and able to be credibly claimed as MPAs, see para 4 above) will only amount to 6.2% of the Hauraki Gulf, a total well below the 18% claimed in the Information document. By comparison, amendments to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act can establish and recognise both globally aligned MPAs (at 6.2%) alongside other protection and fisheries regulated zones (11.8%).

    - Default Option: That as proposed in the Information document, a new ***Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill*** be enacted. While concerned by the limitations of the proposed Marine Protection Bill (as set out in the body of this submission) it is recognised that this stand-alone legislative option may provide for a more timely resolution of the marine protection deficit that currently exists across the Hauraki Gulf. While recognising the positives associated with the default option (i.e. its simplicity and recognition of long standing proposals) this submission sets out why the 5 Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs) cannot be included as a 'marine protection tool' in the proposed legislation. Instead, the proposed SPAs will be more appropriately established under the Fisheries Act (as the Benthic Protection Areas are).

    - That amendments to the *Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000* **OR** the *Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill* should include:

        i.) A goal of ***30% protection by 2030*** and clear baselines (by area, population or function) for the restoration and/or recovery of key Gulf habitats and species;
        ii.) Definitions and categories for marine protected areas as set out in the ***2019 IUCN Guidelines for Marine Protection***;
        iii.) Definitions and categories for zones that do not meet IUCN MPA definition and criteria but represent biodiversity and cultural

values, or ecological functions and benefits are recognised under other international standards or national regulations (e.g. OECM, ICCA, seabed protection areas, cable protection zones and fisheries management tools).

iv.) Budgets and processes for research, monitoring, management and review of the marine protection being achieved through implementation of the MPAs (HPAs) and other marine management tools (including for restoration and fisheries).

- That the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act or new Marine Protection legislation include objectives, governance and management mechanisms for the biodiversity of the Hauraki Gulf that recognise as a priority the diversity of rights and interests (mana whenua + science + community + residents) across the proposed network of MPAs, other marine protection zones, and fisheries regulation across the Hauraki Gulf.

- That the timeframe(s) and scope for the review of Hauraki Gulf marine protection effectiveness be set out in the chosen legislation (e.g. every 5 years and for all protection tools), along with the terms of reference for an annual assessment of HPA outcomes and any related research findings or recommendations relevant to the achievement of Hauraki Gulf biodiversity objectives. In addition, the legislation sets out the protocols under which the consideration of new marine protection proposals will be triggered for HPAs (necessary to ensure that the proposed 6.2% level of protection is a first step, not the last).

Discussion

7. By focusing on the legislative and implementation instruments or options proposed for the delivery of the *Revitalising the Gulf* marine protection proposals this submission will not discuss the individual zone proposals other than to assess their legitimacy as marine protected areas against the IUCN Guidelines, including that:

    - Only those sites where the *main goal or outcome is conserving nature* should be considered MPAs[1];
    - Unsustainable activities, particularly those on the industrial scale, temporary management measures, single species protections, or bans on damaging gear will not lead to the long-term conservation of the whole ecosystem and therefore do not qualify as MPAs[2];

[1] Jon Day et al, (2019) Guidelines for applying the IUCN protected area management categories to marine protected areas, Second edition
[2] Ibid

- Spatial areas which may incidentally deliver nature conservation but do not have stated nature conservation objectives should not automatically be classified as MPAs; [3]
- The use of vertical zoning (and horizontal boundaries established at certain depths) is inconsistent with MPAs.[4]

8. The IUCN Guidelines Update (2019) has set the standard for marine protected area definition and management categories. Where previously areas like New Zealand's Benthic Protection Areas (BPAs) have been able to be disguised in government agency and industry reporting as MPAs, the 2019 IUCN update sets out clear criteria and standards that make clear they are not.

9. It is important to note that the IUCN 'MPA' definition and categories set out in the Guidelines are independent of the name given to a qualifying area by a government. It is not the name (e.g. MPA, Park, Sanctuary, Reserve, marine monument) that matters but that the *primary objective of a protected marine area is to conserve nature*. Throughout this submission the term MPA refers to areas meeting the IUCN definition and categories, irrespective of alternative name proposals. Currently only 0.4% of New Zealand's reported marine protected areas (marine reserves) and 0.3% of the Hauraki Gulf, meet the IUCN MPA standard.

10. The discussion in this submission of the proposed 'protected areas' across the Hauraki Gulf also references the 5 factors identified by Edgar et al (2014) as contributing to the success of established MPAs (https://www.nature.com/articles/nature13022).

    The five NEOLI factors, determined after a review of hundred of sites across 87 MPAs, are:
    - **N**o-take (fully protected, no commercial or recreational fishing)
    - **E**nforced (no illegal fishing allowed)
    - **O**ld (10 years of more)
    - **L**arge (at least 100 sq km)
    - **I**solated (covers an *entire* area - such as a reef or kelp forest - and is bounded by sand or deep water).

11. Edgar et al found that IUCN category MPAs that had only 1 or 2 NEOLI factors were no different from fished areas in terms of total fish biomass; MPAs with 3 NEOLI factors had good increases in total fish biomass (30%); and MPAs with 5 NEOLI factors had significant increases in total fish biomass (244%) and large fish biomass (840%). The diminished state of the Hauraki Gulf, as profiled in State of the Gulf reporting, suggests a minimum of 3-5 NEOLI factors will be needed to ensure the effectiveness of marine protection

[3] Ibid

[4] Ibid

efforts in conserving the health and productivity of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Seafloor Protection Areas

12. The Revitalising the Gulf Information document proposes 5 *Seafloor Protection Areas* (SPAs) that will cover 5.4% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. It states that the SPAs will be *"designed to maintain, restore and protect ecologically important benthic (seafloor) habitats while allowing for compatible uses i.e. commercial and recreational fishing, customary practices of mana whenua, recreational activities, and normal ship operations"*. Complementary management actions in the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan will be formulated to *"protect marine benthic habitats from the adverse impacts of bottom-contact fishing"*, apparently using a tool other than SPAs. The document also sets out the activities that will be prohibited in an SPA, namely dumping, dredging, bottom trawling, Danish seining, potting, set netting, bottom long-lining, sand extraction and mining all listed as prohibited.

13. Currently New Zealand uses a variety of regulations and tools to prohibit one or all of the harmful activities listed for SPAs. These include Benthic Protection Areas (BPAs) that prohibit bottom trawling and dredging (but allow for mining); Seamount closures that prohibit trawling; Type 2 MPAs which prohibit trawling, Danish seining and dredging; and Marine Reserves, which prohibit all fishing.

14. Apart from Marine Reserves (established under the now 50 year old Marine Reserves Act 1971) none of the spatial closure tools listed above meet the definition, primary objectives or management categories set out in the IUCN MPA guidelines. Neither will the proposed Seabed Protection Areas. Most obviously SPAs fail to meet the IUCN MPA definition because they are vertically zoned, an approach that IUCN states "does not make ecological sense". Based on the failure of the SPAs to meet the IUCN MPA definition it is not appropriate to claim (as the Information document does on page 7) that the 5 proposed SPAs will help contribute towards New Zealand's achievement of global protected area goals and targets under the CBD.

15. The fact that the 5 Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs) do not meet the IUCN MPA definition and categories does not mean that they cannot be used as a tool for benthic protection and fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf. However the conservation and reporting limitations of all vertical zoning instruments (such as BPAs and the proposed SPAs) are recognised (globally) as being inconsistent with marine protection objectives.

16. In light of the above it is submitted that the 5 Seabed Protection Areas (SPAs) should not be included in calculations of the area of the Hauraki Gulf under 'protection'.

17. Given the failure of SPAs to meet IUCN MPA definition and guidelines it is submitted that their inclusion in new bespoke 'marine protection' legislation is not credible. They would be more appropriately created under the 1996 Fisheries Act (Section 297). However if the legislation under which they are created is the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act the SPAs could be identified as 'management zones' offering protection to the benthic environment from destructive practices. While not reported as MPAs they could still be identified as part of the Hauraki Gulf marine and conservation management plan.

18. A ban on bottom trawling, dredging, and mining across the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park would negate the need for the identification of individual SPA areas as the entire Park would become a seabed management zone. Alternatively, if vertical zoning was abandoned and all industrial / commercial fishing was prohibited within the proposed SPA boundaries then the areas currently identified as SPAs would become HPAs – contributing to Hauraki Gulf protection percentage totals and New Zealand reporting against global marine protection targets.

Cable Protection Zones

19. The four Cable Protection Zones (CPZs) that are included in the projected marine protection level of 18% for the Gulf are identified as 'Type 2' marine protected areas covering 6.3% of the Gulf. These areas also fail to meet the IUCN MPA definition and criteria. The IUCN Guidelines specifically state that areas that should not be automatically classified as MPAs include *"Marine and coastal areas set aside for other purposes but which also have conservation benefit e.g. communications cable or pipeline protection areas"*. The Hauraki Gulf cable protection zones are clearly marine areas set aside for another purpose.

20. The 'Type 2' MPAs are a uniquely New Zealand construct designed outside of the Marine Reserves Act 1971 to provide *"enough protection from the adverse effects of fishing to meet the [NZ] MPA standard*". With the Type 2 MPAs now 15 years old and not having kept pace with international MPA classification and reporting standards, the Hauraki Gulf marine protection discussion provides the opportunity for a reconsideration of their relevance to future marine protection and conservation management objectives for the Gulf (and New Zealand's larger marine territory).

21. For the CPZ areas (6.3% of the area of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park) to be included in a Hauraki Gulf marine protection total they would need to delimited based on biodiversity criteria and reestablished as High Protection

Areas (HPAs). For that transition to be credible in marine conservation terms the new HPAs would need to include both the seafloor and water column. While excluding commercial fishing activity (to meet the MPA standard) recreational fishing could continue in the new HPA if it is assessed as presenting no threat to the biodiversity within the zone. A relevant example is the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Buffer Zone (IUCN MPA category IV). While it allows for trolling of pelagic fish it prohibits all other fishing and activity to protect the seafloor habitats and associated species. Because there is no vertical zoning of the Buffer area (i.e. benthic and pelagic habitats are not categorised separately), the management plan for the area is integrated, guided by whole of ecosystem health (including regulation of the recreational fishing activity) rather than just the protection of the seafloor.

22. ***It is submitted that the 6.3% of area in Cable Protection Zones should either be transitioned into HPAs (if biodiversity values justify), or remain identified as Cable Protection Zones***. If the latter (i.e. they are left as Type 2 MPAs) they should not be counted in the overall 'protection areas' total for the Hauraki Gulf, but could still be identified as 'management zones' within the amended Hauraki Gulf Marine Park legislation.

High Protection Areas

23. As proposed, the High Protection Areas (HPAs) do meet the IUCN definition and criteria for marine protected areas (categories 1a. – VI). All categories except Ia (strict protection in line with Marine Reserves) allow for research, non-extractive traditional use, restoration/enhancement for conservation, and traditional fishing/ collection in accordance with cultural tradition and use.

24. Beyond Category III (Category IV-VI) activities allowed within an MPA can include zones for local fishing and aquaculture (as defined in management plans) alongside fully protected zones. In these cases the *75% rule* applies i.e. 25% of the marine area can be managed (within the overarching MPA definition) for essential purposes other than marine protection – i.e. food security, long-term habitation or tourism - if 75% of an MPA has conservation as its primary objective. What is prohibited and incompatible with the IUCN MPA definition (across all categories) is industrial fishing and aquaculture, untreated waste discharge, and all mining and oil and gas extraction.

Table 5: Matrix of marine activities that may be appropriate for each IUCN management category

Activities	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
Research: non-extractive	Y*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Non-extractive traditional use	Y*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Restoration/enhancement for conservation (e.g. invasive species control, coral reintroduction)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Traditional fishing/collection in accordance with cultural tradition and use	N	Y*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Non-extractive recreation (e.g. diving)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Large scale high intensity tourism	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Shipping (except as may be unavoidable under international maritime law)	N	N	N*	N*	Y	Y	Y
Research: extractive	N*	N*	N*	N*	Y	Y	Y
Renewable energy generation	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Restoration/enhancement for other reasons (e.g. beach replenishment, fish aggregation, artificial reefs)	N	N	N*	N*	Y	Y	Y
Fishing/collection: recreational (sustainable)	N	N	N	N	*	Y	Y
Fishing/collection: local fishing (sustainable)	N	N	N	N	*	Y	Y
Industrial fishing, industrial-scale aquaculture	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Aquaculture – small-scale	N	N	N	N	*	Y	Y
Works (e.g. harbours, ports, dredging)	N	N	N	N	*	Y	Y
Untreated waste discharge	N	N	N	N	N	N*	N*
Mining, oil and gas extraction (seafloor as well as sub-seafloor)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Habitation	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N

25. The current HPA proposals that meet the IUCN MPA standard cover 5.6% of the Hauraki Gulf. As such, within the framework of a new Marine Protection Bill, it is submitted that only the HPA 'marine protection tool' should be established. When added to the current and proposed Marine Reserves and extensions (0.6%) the total level of proposed marine protection that meets the IUCN MPA definition and standard and can therefore be reported as contributions towards New Zealand's CBD commitments will be 6.2% rather than the 18% suggested in the Information document.

Credible reporting of marine protection

26. From 2007 until 2019 New Zealand consistently reported BPAs as MPAs to the international community. As a result the percentage of New Zealand marine territory identified as being 'protected' in the World Data Base on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the associated Protected Planet, is 30.42%. This misreporting continues, with the MPI website still presenting a map of *'New Zealand Marine Protected Areas'* that includes BPAs (and Type 2 MPAs). In a welcome recognition of past reporting errors the last New Zealand National Reporting to the UN corrected the figure reported as marine protected areas to the 0.4%.

27. Given the history of misleading reporting of New Zealand's level of marine protection (which has been noted at UNEP and IUCN levels), coupled with New Zealand's continuing failure to pass marine protection legislation fit for the 21st Century (e.g. that covers the EEZ territory gained under UNCLOS), it is

critical that the establishment of MPAs in the Hauraki Gulf reflects and reinforces the marine protection standards that are expected and accepted around the world today. As such, this submission proposes that:

- The government pursue the incorporation of both MPAs (that meet the IUCN standard) and other 'marine management zones' (SPAs and CPZs that don't meet MPA standards) into the existing Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act through as series of amendments,

  OR

  The government pass new legislation to establish 12 High Protection Areas (HPAs) in the Hauraki Gulf while also establishing Hauraki Gulf Marine Management Zones (e.g. the currently proposed SPAs) under existing Fisheries regulations.

- Rather than focusing on the level of protection that will be achieved through establishment of the currently proposed HPAs (6.2% if audited against international standards) the new or amended Hauraki Gulf legislation include a target for IUCN standard marine protection across 30% protection of the Hauraki Gulf. A 30% target with a 2030 timeframe would ensure that marine protection across the Hauraki Gulf is consistent with existing and proposed global marine protection targets. A 30% target and 2030 timeframe will also provide a clear point of reference for ongoing engagement with iwi and stakeholders to protect, restore and regenerate the health and productivity of the Hauraki Gulf.

- In support of the 30x30 target **biodiversity objectives be set at the level of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (**rather than the HPA level proposed in the Information document). Gulf scale biodiversity targets will provide the bottom lines that individual HPAs can contribute towards. Set at ecosystem scale the biodiversity objectives and progress made against them will also inform discussion and agreement around future HPA proposals, HPA expansions, the possible transition of SPAs into HPAs, and restoration opportunities. In order for the connection between Hauraki Gulf Marine Park scale biodiversity objectives and HPA outcomes to work the conservation and management plans for each HPA will need to include conservation measures of success that can be rolled up and counted against the Hauraki Gulf scale objectives e.g. for representation, connectivity, diversity, habitat integrity, species populations etc. In addition, restoration, blue carbon and cultural objectives and deliverables can be identified at both Gulf and individual site level, with some sites more focused on one than an another, but all contributing to Gulf scale measures of health and productivity.

- Consistent with the above, it is submitted that working in isolation with mana whenua to identify biodiversity objectives will ultimately be counter productive to the future conservation governance and management of the proposed MPAs and the wider Hauraki Gulf. The history of biodiversity and marine protection consultations across multiple New Zealand marine regions provides an unconvincing case for separating the discussion (negotiation) of biodiversity and marine protection targets with individual stakeholder groups. Even when mana whenua have been involved in government mandated processes (e.g. SubAntarctic Marine Reserves, South East Marine Network and the Kermadec Rangitāhua Ocean Sanctuary) the ultimate rejection of agreed marine protection proposals by other stakeholder groups has resulted in the much delayed establishment or abandonment of those marine reserve / MPA proposals. It is submitted that instead of 'contained' consultations HPA by HPA, a Hauraki Gulf Biodiversity Objectives symposium be convened early in 2023. An entity of marine science standing like the Auckland Museum could be invited to host it in partnership with mana whenua of the Gulf (AM is currently in a $13.3 million research partnership with Ngāti Kuri for the Kermadec Rangitāhua ocean region, and a key participant in the Noises community process). The focus would be on weaving together Mātauranga Māori and contemporary science to identify and prioritise biodiversity objectives for the Hauraki Gulf, and within it, individual HPAs. Biodiversity objectives that reflect cultural and community values, have clear bottom lines, are representative, connected and represent a collective conservation ambition will be critical if governance of the Hauraki Gulf MPAs / HPAs is to be embraced by the more than 2.8 million people projected to be living within 80km of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park by 2030.

- The recognition of rāhui within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and the extension of protection objectives and boundaries for existing marine reserves (as being proposed in the Information document for Whanganui-a-Hei and Cape Rodney-Okakari Point marine reserves), are strongly endorsed as marine protection and management options within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Multiple-category zoning within a single MPA is a common feature of marine protection and conservation management around the world. That New Zealand does not have the legislative instruments in place to do the same is a significant constraint on effective and lasting marine protection and management across its marine territory. A coherent and internationally consistent approach to the establishment of HPAs and other marine management zones across the Hauraki Gulf (that includes rāhui and the delimitation of buffer zone extensions around HPAs) will help overcome the constraints of current legislation at a meaningful scale and establish a model for future marine

conservation conversations across other areas of New Zealand's ocean territory.

Fishing, Customary and Community use

28. While IUCN MPA categories prohibit all commercial fishing and mining a number (iv - vi) allow recreational and local fishing when it is deemed 'sustainable' and consistent with the objectives of the individual MPA. For a fishery management area to meet the IUCN definition of an MPA it *"needs to have nature conservation as its primary objective and be managed in accordance with that objective".* In the future (i.e. beyond the current marine protection proposals) local guidance and management plans will determine the extent to which recreational fishing might be allowed in a category iv-vi MPA in the Hauraki Gulf.

29. Distinct from the regulation of recreational fishing the IUCN MPA definition and categories Ib to VI do recognise resource use by indigenous people *'to conserve their traditional, spiritual and cultural values, in accordance with cultural tradition'*. This extends to both the collection of marine resources and 'traditional / customary fishing'. In some instances (in Canada and Chile) 'cultural tradition' definitions have included boat and fishing gear size and type and/or calendar dates for seasonal harvest. While New Zealand's Marine Reserves Act does not allow for such measures the adoption of the IUCN MPA Guidelines for the establishment of MPAs in the Hauraki Gulf will facilitate a maturing of New Zealand's approach to marine protection.

30. This submission sets out the proposed process for identifying biodiversity objectives ***at the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park scale***. That done, management plans for each proposed HPA will need to set out how the marine protection of HPAs will be met alongside the continuation of customary fishing and collection practices. While an HPA management plan will also need to sit alongside existing customary fisheries regulations and instruments "*to ensure the protections provided by the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 are able to be exercised"* (page 4) it is submitted that Hauraki Gulf Marine Park or the new Marine Protection legislation should ***explicitly incorporate customary instruments*** – both those specific to identified sites (i.e. customary but informal) and those given standing in legislation.

    [It is noted for the Information document authors that the reference to the Fisheries Act 1996, Section 186B is perhaps not appropriate for the Hauraki Gulf given its exclusive application to the South Island of New Zealand]

31. It is worth noting that sitting alongside IUCN MPA Guidelines (and those more recently agreed for Other Effective area based Conservation Measures / OECM) is the IUCN recognition of ***Indigenous Peoples and Community Conservation Territories and Areas (ICCAs).*** An ICCA is a *"naturally and / or*

modified ecosystem containing significant biodiversity values, ecological functions and benefits, and cultural values voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities both sedentary and mobile – through customary laws or other effective means". While historically focused on terrestrial territories the evolution in thinking about marine protection has led to more marine ICCAs being registered. Determining whether ICCAs are also MPAs requires confirmation of both indigenous community consent (in the case of the Hauraki Gulf, mana whenua for each HPA) and alignment with the MPA definition (i.e. priority is given to nature conservation). While the current Hauraki Gulf proposals do not include an ICCA category it is ***submitted that future consideration should be given to the identification ICCA areas by mana whenua within the context of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park governance and management framework***.

Community led conservation

32. Also incorporated within the IUCN MPA category list (V) are protected areas where *"the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value".* Within such areas a *"local community living within and sustainably using the seascape is allowed, and long term and sustainable local fishing practices are permitted".* This submission argues that the ***Ōtata / the Noises HPA*** (as originally proposed by a community led project and integrating 'customary and traditional' use by mana whenua and the family guardians of the islands) does meet the IUCN ICCA and MPA definition (Category V criteria). It ***is therefore submitted that the Ōtata / theNoises HPA be established within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park legislation as originally proposed***.

33. By directly referencing the Ōtata HPA example, this submission argues that while the consistent application of IUCN MPA definition and categories is critical to establishing the credibility and effectiveness of proposed marine protections, a "consistent management approach" (as suggested on page 7 of the Information document) is in fact inconsistent with the recognition of unique indigenous and community rights and interests across individual HPAs. Historical patterns of use and settlement, current levels of engagement and protection, traditional practices and contemporary guardianship values will vary across the proposed HPAs of the Gulf. Those differences should be respected and reflected in the governance and management plans of each HPA.

34. To suggest as the Information document does, that each HPA has a *"consistent management approach"* is to suggest that each HPA – from Te Hauturu-o-Toi to Rotoroa Island to The Ōtata HPA– has the same cultural and community history and level of participation. They will not - just as Kaikoura, Fiordland and the Kermadec Rangitāhua regions have identified their own systems of governance and conservation management. In situ marine

management and conservation plans should reflect that diversity of values, rights and interests. Diversity – whether across HPA names or their governance and management models – need not detract from the achievement of the marine conservation outcomes of each HPA, or its contribution to overall Haruaki Gulf Marine Park biodiversity objectives. In fact the recognition of diverse histories, levels of engagement and ambition should be recognised as a strength. ***It is submitted that the parameters for HPA management be designed without prescribing a cookie cutter model that risks negating cultural and community characteristics.***

Governance

35. While neither the Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals nor the IUCN MPA Guidelines prescribe governance models for marine protected areas it is assumed that the chosen legislative instrument can contain guidance on the governance model(s) for the proposed marine protected areas (HPAs). In anticipation of such this submission offers the following thoughts:

- To be effective any network of marine protected areas and other marine instruments (e.g. SPAs or marine / fisheries management areas) need to be integrated within a broader ocean policy and management framework. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 provides elements of that framework, namely Sections 7 (Recognition of national significance of the Hauraki Gulf) and 8 (Management of the Gulf). The Act, now 22 years old, can provide a governance framework for the new HPAs (those proposed and those in the future), the creation or recognition of other protection zones (that don't meet MPAs standards but represent significant action e.g. rāhui or the banning of bottom trawling and mining) and the yet to be released Fisheries Plan.

- In considering the appropriate legislative instrument for marine protection and marine management across the Hauraki Gulf it is submitted that ***consideration be given to recognising the rights of the Hauraki Gulf as a nationally and culturally significant body of water***. Recognition of *'nature's rights'* is now written into the policies and legislation of more than 20 countries, including New Zealand. The legal personhood bestowed on the Whanganui River has allowed the competing interests of multiple iwi and other stakeholders to be considered, regulated and pursued in a way that respects the river. The same can be imagined for the Hauraki Gulf to ensure that use, protection, regulation and impact over coming generations always has regard for both ancestral relationships across the Gulf and the long-term health and productivity of its natural ecosystem.

- Governance of the Hauraki Gulf will need to occur at multiple levels beyond those already enabled under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act

e.g. at a Gulf-wide scale and at MPA / HPA and SPA scales. The Hauraki Gulf Forum, established under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, provides a starting point for Gulf wide governance and accountability, but will only be effective under both scenarios set out in this submission if given greater powers of governance under the Act. It is possible to envisage independent governance mechanisms being designed for individual or groupings of HPAs (by ecosystem function or connectivity or representation). Each would/ could have a governance system consistent with biodiversity objectives, management responsibilities, the rights of nature recognised through legal personhood, and use options within its boundaries

- While a governance 'ecosystem' such as the one suggested above may be regarded as a heavy lift (when compared with the proposed *"consistent management approach across marine protection proposals"*) the experiences of Australia and Canada suggest that separating area based marine protection from wider ocean policy and management is counter-productive. In the case of New Zealand and the Hauraki Gulf - where there is no umbrella ocean policy enshrined in implementing legislation; no MPA legislation (beyond 1971 Marine Reserves Act) that aligns with IUCN MPA definition and standards; and no institution or agency with a mandate for integrated ocean management (e.g. across conservation and use) – the attention given to governance of ocean management across the entirety of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park must be a priority. If it is not, and the establishment and governance of marine protected areas and regulation of fisheries continue to be assigned to different entities and measured against different targets, then the "ongoing state of environmental decline" is unlikely to be halted by either new marine protected areas or a fisheries plan.

- Revitalising the Gulf is an opportunity to bring the 22 year old Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act to life. If instead of responding to that opportunity government chooses to create a siloed, 'cookie cutter' system of protection and management then questions must be asked about the credibility of our collective ambition to protect and restore the overall health and mauri of the Gulf.

Review and Research

36. The implementation and effectiveness of the proposed marine protection proposals across the Hauraki Gulf will require regular and consistent review. Given the pace of change across the marine environment (not least the changes in a negative direction, driven by climate change, fishing and pollution) it is important that marine protection effectiveness is tracked and reviewed within a responsive and adaptive management model.

37. Across large MPAs (more than 100,000 sq km) the tendency is towards a 'generational review' (i.e. every 20-25 years). However, across the Hauraki Gulf, where a 6.2% level of protection should be seen as a 21st Century minimum and 30% a necessary ambition, it is submitted that a more frequent review timetable is needed, say every 5 years – to review implementation and conservation outcomes, and identify further marine protection proposals (informed by mana whenua, research and conservation needs).

38. An effective Review, irrespective of its timeframe, requires an ongoing investment in research and data collection in the area and instrument under review. Given the urgency of marine protection effort across the Hauraki Gulf, and the associated consideration of other marine and fisheries management it is submitted that the legislative instrument used to establish the 12 HPAs should include an appropriate allocation of funding for ongoing research and review. In addition, it is proposed than a 'research advisory body' is established (at Hauraki Gulf scale) to actively monitor and guide the research and review processes.

39. Review and research costs (suggested at a minimum of $500,000 a year) are over and above the management costs for each newly established HPA. A 2014 study of the cost of MPAs concluded that the medium cost of MPA management (including monitoring and surveillance) in a developed country was $US 8,976 per sq km per year. In the case of Te Hauturu-o-Toi/ Little Barrier that is equivalent to $US 1.750 million a year in management costs, while at the smaller Motukawao Group it is $US 269,280 a year.

40. It is submitted that the budgets associated with marine protection / HPA management, research, and monitoring should be set out in the chosen legislation. So should a one off allocation for at least one review of marine protection outcomes and effectiveness between 2023 and 2030.

Final Observations

41. In concluding this submission it is worth reminding ourselves of the biodiversity loss data repeatedly presented in the State of the Gulf reports, the closure of depleted scallop fisheries, and the laying of rāhui by iwi across multiple areas over the past 12 months to help heal the Hauraki Gulf. Having done so, and acknowledging the marine protection context for this submission, it is appropriate to return to the NEOLI factors associated with marine protected area effectiveness: No-take, Enforced, Old, Large and Isolated. Currently only 2 of the proposed MPAs (HPAs) meet the Old standard, and only 4 (none of which are Old) meet the Large standard. The level of proposed Enforcement for all is not addressed in the Information document, and the extent to which they are Isolated is difficult to determine. All of which leads to the conclusion that the effectiveness of a portfolio of HPAs across 6.2% of the Hauraki Gulf is in doubt.

42. In order to overcome that doubt and deliver marine protection and management that is effective in protecting and restoring the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf, the enacting legislation and governance models must be future focused.

43. Protection of 30% of the Hauraki Gulf by 2030 is achievable. So too is the establishment of marine management zones and introduction of fisheries plans that are based on cultural and community values while being responsive to the changing scales of threat and opportunity.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the timely establishment of the proposed marine protected areas (HPAs) set out in the Information document is a good place to start.

s 9 (2)(a)
24 October, 2022

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 8:23 am
To: Sea Change
Attachments: s 9 (2)(a) .docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

To whom it may concern

Please find my submission attached

Thanks very much

s 9 (2)(a)

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Keep our islands pest-free. Please review our pest-free guidelines prior to travelling and follow the instructions carefully - https://aucklandseashuttles.co.nz/about. Applies to all islands except Waiheke. You can also visit www.treasureislands.co.nz for more information on biosecurity.

AUCKLAND SEA SHUTTLES
s 9 (2)(a)
www.aucklandseashuttles.co.nz
s 9 (2)(a)

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

Minister of Conservation, Hon. Poto Williams
c/- Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation
by email: seachange@doc.govt.nz

21 October 2022

Tēnā kōrua, Minister Parker and Minister Williams,

SUBMISSION TO REVITALISING THE GULF MARINE PROTECTION PROPOSALS

Congratulations on the release of the marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui a Toi.

This submission is on behalf of Auckland Sea Shuttles. I have been the owner/operator of this business for 10 years**.** I also hold a MSDT qualification and taught scuba diving around New Zealand for 14 years. During this time, I fell in love with New Zealand's underwater environment and feel increasingly saddened by today's state of the marine environment in the Hauraki Gulf. I still dive frequently in the Hauraki Gulf and ever since I started diving, the underwater has been steadily losing species abundance and biodiversity.

Therefore, I write in support of the proposed marine protection package in its entirety including 12 High Protection Areas, 5 Seafloor Protection areas and the extension of protection adjacent to two current marine reserves (Cathedral Cove and Cape Rodney).

My business provides water taxi/sea shuttle services on the Hauraki Gulf, covering much of the Gulf from Auckland as far as The Mokohinau Islands. My skippers and I are on the water approximately 300 days per year in all seasons and in addition to providing a marine taxi transfer service, we also run diving charters, snorkelling, and sightseeing trips on the Gulf.

It is the potential for ecotourism in the Hauraki Gulf I wish to address. I am often asked about sightseeing trips or seabird and marine mammal viewing possibilities. I have been in tourism all my adult life in some of NZ's most pristine environments and I'd love to be able to offer my customers an experience where they can be surrounded by abundance on or underwater in the Hauraki Gulf.

The potential for ecotourism in the Hauraki Gulf is extensive but we need to give the Gulf the opportunity to regenerate back to a state of far greater abundance. I firmly believe that providing opportunities to experience both beauty and abundance will be a hugely sought-after commodity in the coming years.

The Hauraki Gulf presents a unique opportunity to showcase marine abundance on the back doorstep of a major city in a developed country. I can only encourage you to grab that opportunity.

Yours sincerely
s 9 (2)(a)
Director

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 9:29 am
To: Sea Change; 'Gulf Users Group'; 'Don Brash'; 'Julian'
Cc: s 9 (2)(a) '; 'David Seymour'; Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Revitalising the Gulf proposals.docx
Attachments: Revitalising the Gulf proposals.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Dear Doc.

Herewith my submission on your proposal for the Hauraki Gulf. Kindly respond to acknowledge receipt.
You can contact me on s 9 (2)(a)
Clearly this proposal has to be placed on hold until full public consultation has taken place through a properly advertised process. I look forward to seeing this.
Please keep me involved in your process, and take into consideration my considerable experience in the gulf as well as my multi-generational involvement and customary rights.
I have to say that the Racist positioning and favouritism to one Iwi is an alarming aspect of your proposal. Is this tribal rule?. Is it now legal for policing by a self-appointed Iwi vigilante group?
I find this draconian proposal outdated in its approach and ineffectual in achieving its stated ambitions.

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

Revitalising the Gulf *proposals,*

To. DOC and any other public servants proposing changes to the Hauraki Gulf Maritime management.

Submission by s 9 (2)(a)

21/10/2022

I am a s 9 (2)(a) who has lived in the Auckland area my entire life.

Since a very early age, I have swum, sailed, Dived, Fished, and generally explored the Hauraki Gulf and the Islands. I am a Yachting New Zealand Seamanship instructor. I know the gulf intimately above and below the water line. Many would argue that I have sailed more trips across the gulf than any other person, and dived more of the coastline than most. I have shared all this with my children, grandchildren and friends over the years. I am a recognised seamanship instructor and highly skilled navigator and have helped and encouraged others to recognise and respect the Gulf by sharing my knowledge and skill. My commitment to the gulf comes from my ancestors over many generations. My father was a barrister and solicitor practising Maori Law, and my Grandfather was commodore of the RNZYS, and stipendiary magistrate of Maori affairs in Northland.

In short, I have a multi-generational customary usage of the Hauraki Gulf, and very strong commitment to its preservation for the people of New Zealand.

Over the decades I have had to watch and tolerate the degradation of the gulf that has resulted from a combination of factors.

- Land run off.
- Destructive commercial fishing practises and gross exploitation.
- Dumping of toxic materials by Ports of Auckland
- International shipping dumping and importation of invasive species
- A flawed quota management system
- A rape and pillage mentality from commercial fishers aided and abetted by MAF and MPI
- Ridiculous proposals from DOC that were never going to be accepted by the public.

All of the above was obvious and avoidable, but the public servants in Wellington take no notice of what local knowledge is saying to them.

I have read the proposal and looked closely at the map. I have spoken with numerous other people and organisations.

I do not see much merit in the proposal because.

1. The concept of perpetual marine reserves is fundamentally flawed. Unacceptable to the public, impossible to police, too small to have any significant benefit, and completely ineffective as a tool to preserve the general sea scape.. All Marine reserves do is force the problem to another location and alienate the public. The locations on the map are favourite areas for many Aucklanders, and we can expect huge protest.
2. It continues to allow destructive commercial practises and over fishing by the commercial sector.
3. It is blatantly racist. The public will react violently to any suggestion of Ethnic privilege.
4. A complete lack of community consultation or discussion.
5. Zero input from recreational users. Divers, Yachts people, Fishers, Sporting people – all have been totally ignored.

I have a counter proposal to suggest..

First, I agree with the area definition of the Hauraki Gulf. I also agree with the urgent need for a radical change.

I believe that the proposal is too conservative to have any positive impact. I believe a more agile concept is required. Any changes must appeal to all of the stakeholders, and treat all users equally.

1. **Marine reserves.** First we need to break the Gulf area down into Zones. For example. Firth of Thames (All of the firth from Thumb Point Waiheke to Corromandel). Another might be Inner gulf. All of the area inside a line from Takatu peninsula to Thumb point. Another zone might be called Barrier encompassing all of the barrier Islands, across to Jackson, and out to the Mokes. Note my zone definitions are only to give the idea. The important point is that it must be easy for any navigator to determine if he/she is inside or outside the lines. The Zones need to be large. The idea is that these zones can be managed as independent areas. My recommendation is we use the idea of a legalised Rahui.

Instead of tiny marine reserve, any zone can be closed to all fishing for a short period (1-5 years). Closed means no exceptions. No commercial, no recreational, and no special privilege to Iwi. No exceptions. The zone needs to be monitored, and if not ready for reopening after two years, the Rahui can be extended for a further year. This agile concept is far superior because:

a. The public will far more readily accept and observe the idea of temporary closure with measured outcomes and transparent process.
b. It doesn't punish any local community more than any other.
c. One rule for all which will be far more acceptable to the wider community.
d. Easy navigation. Well-chosen zone lines will make it easy for navigators to recognise if someone is fishing inside or outside the lines.
e. Much larger HPA will result in much more tangible result.
f. Once the zones are published, users can easily be kept up to date about zone closures via the maritime VHF radio service.
g. No need for massive cartography definitions, or expensive buoys and beacons

2. Destructive fishing practises have to cease in all parts of the gulf. No exceptions. No bottom trawling or dredging. No netting. No Pair trawling.
3. Commercial Quota management by Wellington has to go. A local board of expert stakeholders from all sectors has to set the annual commercial catches.
4. Ethnic privilege has to go. One rule for all. The public of NZ have clearly demonstrated that they are insulted by the idea of Ethnic privilege, and Co Governance. The public do not believe the distorted version of the treaty that is being circulated by the radicals. s 9 (2)(a) believes in democracy. If DOC pursues the Ethnic privilege concept there will be violent outrage from the public and the entire proposal will fail. s 9 (2)(a) does not want this to happen.

The Hauraki Gulf is my garden, my playground, and my version of heaven. It is a gift and we need to respect it. It cannot sustain the abuse it has suffered over the last 50 years. Nor can it tolerate incompetent management from a bunch of public servants in remote Wellington. The Gulf belongs equally to all people.

No group has special ownership. We are all stakeholders in the gulf and we all have everything to lose if we continue as have done in the past. My concept of agile management is a far superior to the draconian Marine reserve concept in the proposal.

In this morning's news I hear that Iwi are now taking matters into their opwn hands and patrolling the gulf claiming ownership and authority. This is a declaration of war, and will not be tolerated. They have no authority, and no special rights. Confrontations and outrage are bound to follow. Just another demonstration of racism.

It is absolutely essential that a lengthy public consultation take place before any decisions are made. To date the public HAVE NOT been kept informed, and this proposal has been dropped on us out of the blue. This is totally unacceptable. The real Gulf users need to be on board with any proposal and properly advertised public consultation has to take place.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 9:53 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

:

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
Having free dived and scuba dived in many marine reserves around the world, it is THE most beautiful experience to be surrounded by an extensive diversity of marine life. There are obvious pressures on the Hauraki Gulf and having stronger protection on this marine area would slowly return the mauri (life force). Every protected area has an important part to play in restoring a healthy ocean especially as our oceans are taking a hit with climate change, over fishing, and other anthropogenic impacts.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 10:15 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on Hauraki Golf
Attachments: s 9 (2)(a) and family members.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

Regards
s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a) family members

We do not agree on a permanent ban on these 19 fishing zones.

A one- or two-year ban on certain areas not the whole 19 zones at the one time.

Still allowing recreational fishing and allowing the seabed to regenerate at the same time would be a more practical and sensible approach. And of course monitoring to see if this does have an affect on regrowth, not a total ban.

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 11:08 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Gulf
Attachments: Revitalising the Gulf.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached, our club's feedback on your document titled Revitalising the Gulf. This feedback is submitted on behalf of the committee and members of the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc, of whom we have over 3000.

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a) Manager, on behalf of the committee and members.

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC.)

25 October 2022

Department of Conservation

Dear Sir/Madam

This feedback on Revitalising the Gulf Document (*RtG document*) is provided on behalf of members of the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club.

Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club was formed in 1947. We have over 3000 members and employ 14 staff. Our clubrooms are located in Whitianga opposite the main wharf.

One of the objects per our constitution is the protection of fish and their food supply.

We have a good understanding at our club of the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari process, the volume of work involved, the issues faced in the Hauraki Gulf and the importance of getting it right, particularly as our club manager was one of the 14 people on the initial Stakeholders Working Group for over 18 months until illness forced his replacement.

We recognise the need for cooperation and collaboration by groups with different interests and goals, in order to provide for good outcomes for the Hauraki Gulf.

We are opposed to the proposed expansion of Te Whanganui-O-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve. The existing marine reserve is serving its purpose well with ample opportunity for existing (and even increased) tourism business, and education opportunities, as well as the ability for the public at large to access the area freely without needing more space.

There is no evidence to suggest that the adjacent reef system (in the proposed expansion) is in any way deteriorating or expected to deteriorate. There is ample anecdotal evidence of a significant increase in populations of snapper and crayfish in this area in recent years <u>without</u> it being included in the marine reserve.

We submit that moving current fishing effort (whether recreational, commercial or customary) from this area is likely to put more, undue pressure on the immediate surrounding area with very little, or no, benefit to the area in the proposed expansion which by all accounts is already increasing in biodiversity.

We are opposed to the proposal in the *RtG document* to continue to allow dredging for scallops within the Hauraki Gulf. The area in which scallops settle and live constitutes biogenic habitat which is rare - something to be cherished and looked after, particularly in the Hauraki Gulf as it is well documented that many species' juveniles require, or prefer, biogenic habitat to live in, at some stage during their life cycle.

Sponges, horse mussels and other marine life also settle in the same areas as scallops, and the dredging of these areas is extremely detrimental for several reasons. Firstly, the physical destruction of the biogenic habitat which literally destroys the area in which many species' juveniles are trying to survive. Secondly, the indiscriminate nature of the collection of scallops and damage to the shellfish themselves with no means to

establish quality (size, meat weight) until they are brought to the surface to be re-distributed if not up to commercial harvest standard. Thirdly, the re-suspension of sediment which places more pressure on any remaining marine life for days at a time and sometimes longer.

We submit that we shouldn't even have to argue that dredging should not take place in areas where any juveniles are trying to survive (biogenic habitat) – it should be taken as a given.

We are opposed to the proposal in the *RtG document*, to continue to allow bottom contact trawling, whether in corridors or any other part of the Gulf. This extremely destructive, archaic method of fishing has no place in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and any agency that has been tasked with reviving the Gulf, restoring mauri and waiora, would know that towing large, heavy objects across the seafloor is not conducive to this intent.

Apart from the obvious destruction this causes to marine species that are unable to get out of the way, it is somewhat indiscriminate, causes re-suspension of sediment (sediment is one of the major stressors in the Hauraki Gulf) and results in low quality of catch (as opposed to line caught fish).

We are opposed to the bulk harvest of forage fish/ bait fish (typically by purse seiners) for two reasons: Firstly, these seiners are pretty good at what they do and there is the very real risk that individual species are already under pressure. We note in the *RtG document*, on page 31, a reference to the pilchard fishery and the statement that "pilchard removals have declined over the past 10 years". This is because they are no longer to be found in commercial quantities – shocking! Secondly, and perhaps more importantly (although not to the pilchards), because of the extremely important role these forage fish play in the ecosystem.

They are an important part in the food chain in their own right and/or in many instances they chase their own prey to the surface for seabirds to feed on. The removal of huge quantities of forage fish in a small area in a small space of time by purse seining can, and does, have a catastrophic effect on other species relying on those fish to be able to perform their ecosystem function (either as food or to bring food to the surface). This is likely having a significant negative impact on fish and sea mammals and almost certainly having a significant negative impact on seabird populations.

We also note on page 31 of the *RtG document* that "Research is underway on the role of low- and mid-trophic level fish species in the Gulf ecosystem. The results of this will let us re-evaluate the total allowable catch from an ecosystem-based perspective".

We strongly request that we be given timely access to the results of this research, whether or not any re-evaluation work is performed and if re-evaluation work is performed, detailed analysis of that re-evaluation.

We note on the Revitalising the Gulf Information Document that accompanied the *RtG document*, page 8 addresses the "impact on the commercial and recreational fishing sectors". We are concerned that economic impacts are not measured at all for recreational fishing and yet it is clear that there will be a negative impact.

Many businesses are directly reliant on recreational fishing at current levels or higher. The abundance of small holiday townships down the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsular and the importance of recreational fishing to these towns means the flow on from this negative economic impact will be felt throughout whole communities.

The commercial fishing impact analysis provided, is focused on the price of fish and expected reduction in take. The fishing industry (which overlaps in some of these smaller communities with recreational fishing suppliers) is so much more than the price of fish and any differential in catch. The economic analysis provided is extremely basic at best, and badly misrepresents the negative economic impact of reducing fishing effort.

The *RtG document* proposes the formation of 12 High Protection Areas (HPA's) in the Hauraki Gulf, two of which are on, or adjacent to, the Aldermen Islands (Ruamaahua). These areas are referenced 9a and 9b. We are opposed to the proposal to categorise these areas as HPA's and believe other, more appropriate options are available that will achieve all the stated objectives.

We are extremely eager to be able to fish in areas 9a and 9b, specifically on or near the surface for high value, highly migratory fish, including striped marlin, blue marlin, black marlin and tuna species, using towed lures or baits at no more than two metres depth.

As mentioned, the fish being targeted are highly migratory and not at all territorial so there is absolutely no danger of 'fishing an area out'. These fish are also high enough up the food chain that very few marine species are reliant on them as a food source. We believe that using this fishing method for these fish will have virtually no negative impact on the biodiversity, mauri or waiora of areas 9a and 9b. There is no contact with the seafloor by fishing equipment, anchor or any other means. Taking a few of these fish has minimal to no impact on the ecosystem in that area other than they may have eaten some of the fish already there if they had not been caught.

There is no justifiable reason to remove this type of fishing in either of these two areas. The two areas cover 288 square kilometres which is a large area and enforcing a ban on this type of fishing would be costly, difficult to execute (certainly very impractical), and achieve absolutely nothing to improve the mauri, waiora, biodiversity or any other enhancement of this marine environment.

The following excerpt can be found on page 33 of the *RtG document:*
“To ensure local sports fish opportunities are available for the recreational sector, we will explore the Sea Change Plan's Special Management Area (SMA) tool. This proposes designated areas for the carefully managed and targeted sport fishing of several high-value sport fish species under a 'small harvest, high value' regime”.

We agree and assert that areas 9a and 9b would be entirely appropriate areas to engage this tool as proposed by the Sea Change Plan.

Unfortunately, and specifically against the wishes of the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Stakeholder Working Group, the Ministerial Advisory Committee (M.A.C.) chose to 'cherry pick' items from the final Sea Change Plan. Some of these are analysed on pages 64 and 65 of the *RtG document* and in particular, the following statement is made:
“We will not progress any marine protection areas that base their design on the Special Management Area tool proposed in the Sea Change Plan because it focuses on the management of use”.

We oppose the decision by the M.A.C. to ignore the use of this tool, especially after stating earlier in the *RtG document* that they would use this tool.

We submit that areas 9a and 9b are perfect examples of areas where such a tool should be used, especially since little or no negative effects would be experienced in the marine environment if the tool was used here.

We note too, regarding areas 9a and 9b, that they might also be perfect areas to implement Ahu Moana pilot projects. We would welcome the opportunity to be able to collaborate with our local hapu, Ngati Hei, to adopt management practices in these areas that would enhance the mauri, waiora and biodiversity of these areas in accordance with the concept in the *RtG document* from pages 76-83. In this regard, we endorse and support the proposal initiated by Ngati Hei Trust on 28 July 2022 for Tiaki Ahu Ruamaahua (Aldermen Islands) which is a comprehensive proposal in its own right (copy available if required).

The members of our club are eager to see an improvement in the biodiversity, mauri and waiora of the whole of the Hauraki Gulf. We strongly support the protection of biogenic habitats. Whilst we understand that some of the solutions may entail exclusions or changes of practice to recreational fishers, we do not

support the exclusion of all fishing when some types of fishing are not at all harmful to the environment.

We believe more work should be done to identify stressors and other actual problems that are affecting the Gulf, so that they can be addressed and we can improve the whole Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and not just 30% or any other arbitrary number that somebody comes up with. We do not see marine reserves or HPA's as a solution to a problem.

The Hauraki Gulf is indeed a taonga, but it is also there to be enjoyed in a responsible manner.

Yours faithfully,

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a) – on behalf of the committee and members

Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club (Inc)

s 9 (2)(a) [redacted]

[redacted]

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 12:34 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: submission regarding Gulf Marine Protection proposals
Attachments: Gulf submission.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora,

Please find attached our submission regarding Hauraki Gulf marine protection proposals.

Kind regards,
s 9 (2)(a)

Submission with regard to Gulf Marine Park Protection Proposals.

We have a family property on s 9 (2)(a) , so our submission relates to this. We are highly supportive of the Noises, Tiritiri Matangi, and Motutapu proposals, and we would like to see the Noises HPA one day extended to a section of our Rakino Island eastern coastline. Whilst we appreciate that the current proposals are good starting point, the proposed 6% that will have varying levels of protection once the the cable protection zones are excluded is inadequate. The gold standard would be 30%.

The land and the sea are inextricably linked.

- We support coastal revegetation on the many pest free Gulf islands to encourage seabird colonies. Seabird colonies support kelp growth which is vital for Gulf regeneration.
- We support increased riparian plantings of gullies and wetlands that flow into the Gulf.
- Reduction of sedimentation and stormwater run-off from urban areas is essential.
- We would like to see more protections for coastal rocky reef areas of Gulf Islands.
- We support regeneration projects such as kelp reforestation, and re-seeding of mussels to support benthic health.
- The proposed protections need to be implemented this parliamentary term.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

25/10/22

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 1:40 pm
To: Sea Change
Cc: s 9 (2)(a)
Subject: Fwd: The Future of the Hauraki Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Tēnā koutou,

I am forwarding an email we received from s 9 (2)(a). You will see he has requested we forward his brief submission relating to Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals.

Please can you confirm receipt of this email and that his email submission is sufficient.

Nga mihi,

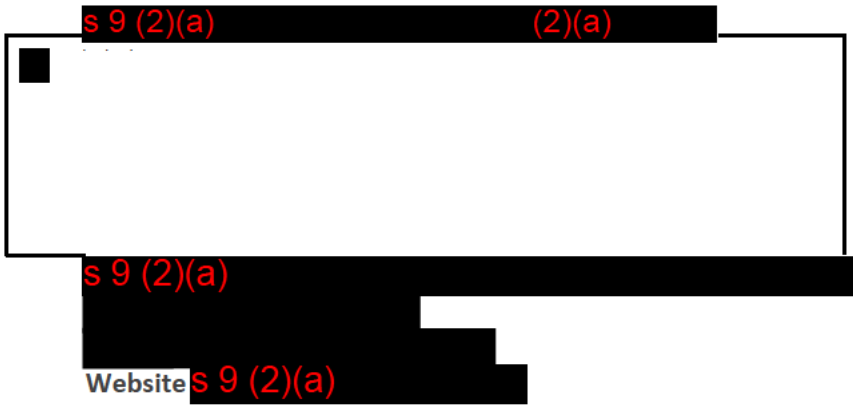
s 9 (2)(a)

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Date: Mon, 24 Oct 2022 at 05:07
Subject: The Future of the Hauraki Gulf
To: s 9 (2)(a)
9 (2)(a) Info s 9 (2)(a)

I fully support submissions related to the Gulf Marine Protection Proposal, with special consideration related to the Noises Islands and related reef area.

Regards, s 9 (2)(a)

Dear s 9 (2)(a) (but sweet), Please use/forward this in the most effective way to help the Cause. s 9 (2)(a)



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s 9 (2)(a)
Mob : s 9 (2)(a)
EMail : s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 1:52 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission against Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension
Attachments: Submission Against.pdf; PastedGraphic-4.tiff

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

Please find attached my submission against the extension of the Marine Reserve Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove).

Regards
s 9 (2)(a)

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

Submission Against Sea Change Plan
6. Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) marine reserve extension.

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

I am against the proposed extension to the existing marine reserve at Cathedral Cove and/or the addition of any new marine reserves in the Hahei area.

My reasons for being against the proposed marine reserve extension:

1. **Safety:** The sheltered lee side of Goat Island is a safe haven for people fishing from small boats or kayaks, especially with small children. Without this area families would attempt to fish in more dangerous locations risking life.
2. **Contract Breach:** This proposed extension breaches the contract between DOC and the community. When the Marine Reserve was introduced, to much opposition from the community, DOC and the community agreed to a marine reserve being created on the condition of its current size. An extension is creep and what is to say that it will not further creep along Hahei Beach in the future. The community were mostly against it because they felt it would cause pressure on the regions wildlife due to tourism and this has come true with intense tourism in the area now because of the marine reserve.
3. **Tourism:** Marine Reserves, if purly for the protection of sea life and not for the promotion of tourism would be put in areas hard to access that have the best chance of building fish stocks and not easily accessible for tourists. The reason Cathedral Cove has a huge number of boats is because of the marine reserve, so increasing the size of the reserve will just increase the number of boats and tourists which has a negative effect on the environment. DOC needs to decide if they are the Department of Conservation or the Department of Tourism, they should not be both as the two are mutually exclusive. If by 'Sustainable Tourism' DOC mean boatload after boatload of tourists on commercial motor launches and water taxis then this has been achieved. Leave Hahei out of this, it is already inundated with tourists accessing Cathedral Cove and the marine reserve.
4. **Access:** DOC state that there are 2 objectives of this proposal, the protection of lobster movement and access to the marine reserve from Hahei beach. Yet there are no details of lobster numbers over time included in the proposal. Also not stated is 'why' DOC want direct access to the marine reserve from Hahei. One can only assume it is for tourism purposes but as it is not explained it is only an assumption. You can currently easily access the existing marine reserve from walking around the rocks at low tide, kayaking or boating.
5. **Existing affected users:** Many boats are moored within the proposed reserve extension on the sandy sea floor. They and their children swim out to these boats. The extension would mean these families, many of whom have done this for decades won't be able to. People currently fish off the beach right to the rocks. This would be unfair to people without boats who cannot afford a boat or enjoy rock fishing.
6. **Future affected users:** Next DOC will want to prevent water skiing in the reserve, dog walking on the beach adjoining the proposed reserve or travelling through the reserve with fish or fishing gear on board.
7. **Illegal fishing:** We regularly travel by boat and kayak within and around the existing marine reserve and have never seen any illegal fishing or diving in the reserve. DOC are stating this without any evidence.
8. **DOC Marine Reserve Objectives:** All of the objectives listed in table 19 are already being achieved with the current marine reserve. If DOC want more area protected put a marine reserve in a location that will protect marine life but won't put pressure on the environment by increasing tourism.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 1:54 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

:

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
I have visited Te Tapuwae O Rongokako Marine Reserve and Goat Island with EMR.

In the Gisborne region logging, agriculture and overfishing are wreaking havoc on our marine environment. When visiting non protected marine areas such as Kaiti beach or Waikanae beach in Gisborne, they are almost devoid of life. There is hardly any seaweed, fish or shellfish and at times are unsafe for swimming due to stormwater and sewage overflows. Comparitively, Te Tapuwae O Rongokako Marine Reserve is flourishing. The students i take snorkeling are blown away by what they see. Not only by the abundance of life but the size of everything as well. For the entire snorkel sessions all i hear is "WOW, look at the size of that crayfish" or "did you see that huge kina". Being able to dive and swim through seaweed is an amazing experience too.

The benefits a marine reserve has on whanau and the wider community is unparalleled. Whanau are able to share an active experience, feel revitalised and hopeful for the future.

I think the more protected marine areas the better. New Zealand has so many endemic marine species and scientists come from all over the world to study them. Furthermore, studies show tourism picks up and there are economic and mental health benefits to areas with a marine reserve.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 2:26 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission the Revitalising the Gulf
Attachments: Submission to Revitalising the Gulf s 9 (2)(a) 25 Oct 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Good day -

I would be honoured if you would consider this submission to *Revitalising the Gulf* (please find attached).

All the best

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

Submission to *Revitalising the Gulf* discussion document

From s 9 (2)(a) 25 October 2022

Submitter introduction

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I have been a resident of s 9 (2)(a) for 25 years, and before that lived in s 9 (2)(a)

I am an award-winning writer and social marketing campaigns manager, in which capacity I initiated and ran the *Natural Masterpieces* campaign, which became New Zealand's most successful ever, winning 6 medals at the NZ advertising awards, and 4 at the international awards in Cannes, France.

I have researched and sailed in and written about the Hauraki Gulf for all this time; and write for New Zealand media such as *Boating NZ, Forest & Bird, Gulf News, Junction, NZ Geographic, NZ Listener, NZ Today, North & South, Stuff, The Big Idea, Waiheke Weekender*, and internationally for *Australian Boatbuilder, Australian Multihull World, Australian Wildlife, Yachting Monthly* (UK), *Wooden Boat* and *SAIL*(USA).

I have written much interpretive material in and for the Hauraki Gulf, including all brochures and signage for Te Ara Hura Trail (for Auckland Council, Waiheke Island), the Aotea Track (for DOC, Aotea Great Barrier Island), and the Waiheke Natural Highlights app on the STQRY platform.

Although this is a personal submission, I speak also for my family, which includes my wife, daughter and her partner, all of whom have PHDs in ecological science.

I am the founder member of the Friends of the Hauraki Gulf group, which has proposed the NW Waiheke Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve, as part of a network around the island. I have worked closely with the Waiheke Local Board, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, Ngāti Paoa Trust Board, Piritahi Marae and many other interested parties on this project for 10 years.

As a previous chair of the Waiheke High School Board of Trustees, I established the SeaSports Academy there, which for 15 years has been training young people with all the skills needed to become moana rangers.

Submission on *Revitalising the Gulf*

The *Revitalising the Gulf* proposals have the right intent but fall far, far short of what effective marine protection for the Hauraki Gulf would be.

It's a consensus among marine scientists that the most effective Marine Protected Areas - by far - are Type 1 marine reserves. For reference please read these two seminal papers:

- *No-take marine reserves are the most effective protected areas in the ocean*
  Dr Enric Sala and **Dr Sylvaine Giakoumi** from the *ICES* Journal 2018

- *Fifty years on: Lessons from marine reserves in New Zealand and principles for a worldwide network*
  Dr Bill Ballantine in *Biological Conservation* 2014

It's also a consensus among scientists – and DOC technical staff – that what the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park needs to recover its biodiversity, is a network of marine reserves covering at least 30% of its area.

After ten years of deliberations, and in the face of an urgent action needed to address the catastrophic environmental collapse of the Hauraki Gulf – which has been proven and extensively documented by successive *State of the Gulf* reports from 2000 onwards– the *Revitalising the Gulf* plan in woefully inadequate.

It is timid; a disgrace; an abrogation of our duty of care to the environment; and an insult to future generations. It is way too little, way too late.

Revitalising the Gulf has ***no new marine reserves***. Instead it proposes experimental 'High Protection Areas' (HPA's) based on customary take.

These are **'limited take areas' which we know *do not work.***

This has been proven scientifically. The most relevant examples of this are:

- Mimiwhangata in the Far North, a limited take area for over 40 years and monitored by **Dr Roger Grace** with no real improvement.
- The Poor Knights which were a limited take zone for 50 years from the 1920 to the 1970s. It's only when they became a proper marine reserve that they blossomed into the world-famous dive spot they are today.

The *Revitalising the Gulf* plan also runs directly contrary to the advice of DOC scientists given in the technical report to SeaChange, which was presented to the Ministerial Advisory Committee for *Revitalising the Gulf.*

See p131 for the DOC scientists saying the HPA's won't be as good as Type 1 Marine Reserves - and the 'Agency response to Sea Change Plan proposal' at the bottom of each proposed HPA area, where the Type 1 Marine Reserve is clearly the preferred option.

https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/sea-change/marine-protection-technical-document.pdf

-

In the face of the undisputed crisis in the Hauraki Gulf, and the unequivocal remedies based in science, the *Revitalising the Gulf* proposals would be akin to the NZ government's Covid response being based on homoeopathy.

Also, with the experimental HPA's relying on a foundation that has yet to be defined, this is recklessness of governance of a high order – especially given that this is a policy area of great importance.

For there is no definition of 'customary take'. What amounts? What species? Does this include seabirds and marine mammals? What methods of fishing or gathering – contemporary or traditional? What is the hierarchy of take where there are competing, overlapping iwi interests?

The *Revitalising the Gulf* plan will continue to allow recreational fishing in over 99% of the Hauraki Gulf. The same fishing that has destroyed its mauri so far.

Recreational fishers make up just 12% of the adult New Zealand population.

A vast majority of people who appreciate the Gulf, so do for reasons other than fishing.

It's beyond a no-brainer that what the Gulf needs is a network of marine reserves covering at least 30% of its area. That this should happen immediately; and that all other marine conservation efforts can be adjuncts to this.

Please understand that this submission is not against customary take or recreational fishing per se. Neither does it contest the ethos of Ahu Maona. It's just that these activities can take place in the 70% of the Gulf that lies outside the 30% marine reserves. And they will all benefit enormously from this. Indeed, Ahu Moana accepts the primacy of marine reserves, if they are in place.

Beyond the common sense of the conservation and ecological benefits of marine reserves, their economic benefit is of great importance too.

For reference please see

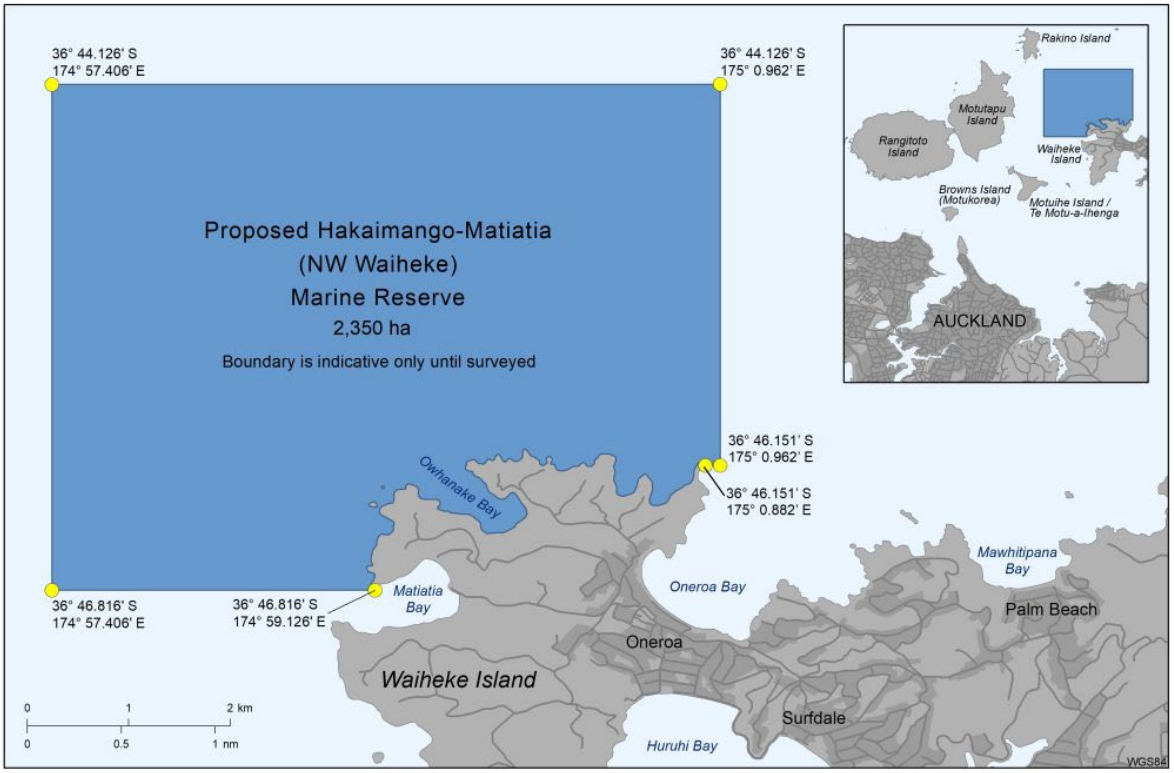
Economic valuation of the snapper recruitment effect from a well-established temperate no-take marine reserve on adjacent fisheries.

- **Zoe Qu, Simon Thrush, Darren Parsons** & **Nicolas Lewis**, in *Marine Policy* 134 1-8, 2021.

This research outlines the economic benefits to the Hauraki Gulf community from one species alone, from one tiny 547ha marine reserve at Goat Island. "The economic valuation of this marine reserve's snapper recruitment effect demonstrated $NZ9.64 million in total spending accruing to recreational fishing per annum and $NZ4.89 million in total output to commercial fisheries annually."

Imagine the benefits, ecological, social, economic and in terms of sustainable tourism and resource protection, across all marine species from a network of marine reserves covering 30% of the Hauraki Gulf! It would be inconceivable, and against all forms of common sense and natural justice, not to take this up.

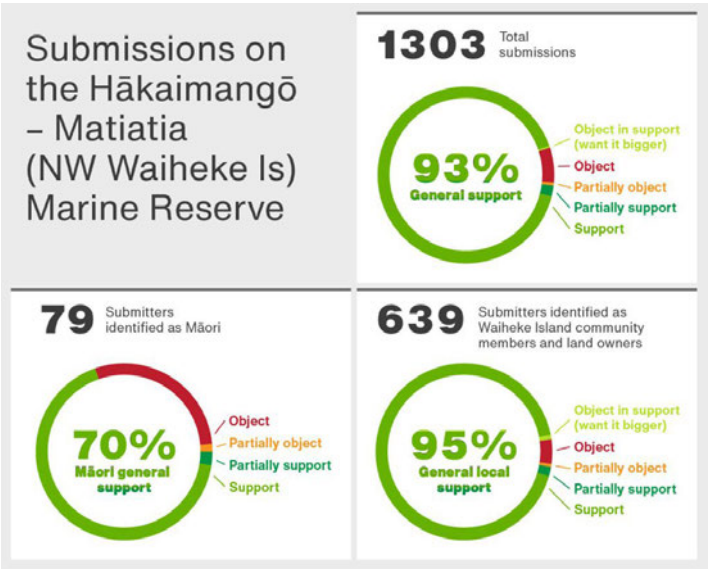
Practical steps



Proposed Hakaimango-Matiatia (NW Waiheke) Marine Reserve indicative boundary

The government and the nation should get behind the NW Waiheke Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve proposal - the only community-led marine reserve proposal that is current in the Hauraki Gulf right now. For more on this please see https://friendsofhaurakigulf.nz/

Submissions received for this new marine reserve show 93% in support nation-wide, 95% support from Waiheke residents, overwhelming support from Māori residents of Waiheke, and 70% support overall from people identifying as Māori.



The *Revitalising the Gulf* plan correctly notes the importance of community-led initiatives. Yet it entirely ignores the marine conservation efforts of the Waiheke community – the largest population living entirely within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

In 2016, as a result of community pressure and multiple reports from credible, respected scientists, the Waiheke Local Board accepted this plan for a network of 5 marine reserve around the Waiheke coast (the green areas in this map).

This was forwarded to the SeaChange project (which led to *Revitalising the Gulf*), the Hauraki Gulf Forum, DOC and the NZ Government.

Despite being the will of the vast majority of Waiheke Island people, effected through our duly-elected local government agency, this plan has been overlooked.

The NW Waiheke Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve proposal already has the support of:

- Ngāti Paoa Trust Board
- Auckland Council
- Waiheke Local Board
- Piritahi Marae
- Kennedy Point marina protest group Protect Pūtiki
- Forest & Bird NZ
- Forest & Bird Hauraki Islands branch
- Greenpeace NZ and International
- Protect Our Gulf
- Devonport Yacht Club
- Rocky Bay Memorial Cruising Club

- Tamaki Estuary Protection Society
- Friends of Motu Korea
- Environmental Defence Society
- Guardians of the Kapiti Marine Reserve
- Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve
- Former Minister of Conservation Hon Chris Carter
- Auckland central MP Chloe Swarbrick
- Labour MP associated with Waiheke Helen White
- Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust
- Sir Peter Blake Marine Education & Recreation Centre
- NZ Association of Marine Scientists
- Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust
- Project Jonah
- Waiheke Dive & Snorkel Ltd
- Carbon Neutral
- SeaChange South Africa (producers of the film *My Octopus Teacher*)
- Akaroa Dolphins, and

  a majority of marine scientists and numerous other bodies.

The NW Waiheke Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve proposal, and the network of marine reserves it will be a part of, must be included front and centre in the *Revitalising the Gulf* plan.

Request for personal presentations

I ask to address any Select Committee hearing, or public consultation session on *Revitalising the Gulf*

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 2:30 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission to proposed extension of the marine reserve to include Hahei beach.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hello

I wish to oppose the proposal to increase the Hahei Marine reserve to take in part of Hahei beach for the following reasons.

- The area in the sheltered waters between Mahurangi Island and the beach are excellent and safe for recreational fishing which is enjoyed by families with young children and this opportunity would be lost.
- Fishing from the beach would also be lost.
- Dogs will when on the beach during the allowable hours be difficult to control from running into the water to swim.
- It will be difficult to identify the boundary.

I have no problem with the reserve being extended out seaward.

Kind regards
s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 2:30 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Objection to the expansion of Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) marine reserve (inpart)
Attachments: Objection to Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) proposed reserve extension.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

Hi there – please find attached objection in part.

s 9 (2)(a)

25/10/2022

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

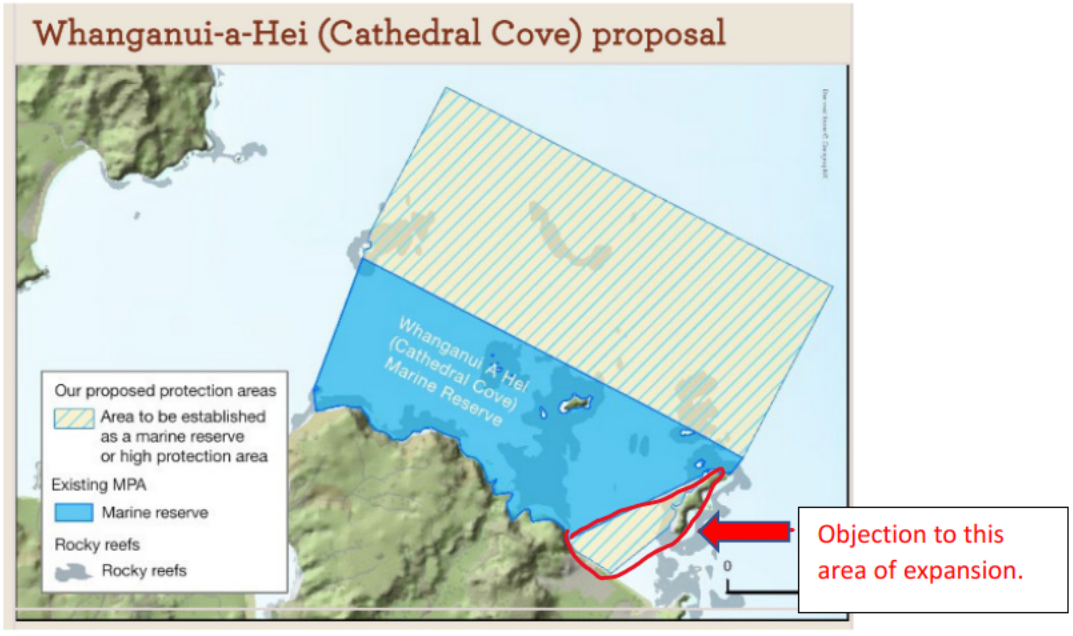
[redacted]

[redacted]

This is a letter to confirm my objection to the expansion of the Whanganui-a-Hei (Catherdral Cove) Marine reserves in part.

My objection is based around the loss of safe fishing areas and the loss usability for both residents and visitors to Hahei around the western side of Mahurangi island. The current marine reserve boundaries allow a degree of safe refuge around the island with only the north end of the island intersecting the reserve. This provides good wind/sea swell/weather shelter for recreational uses, particularly younger families (like mine) wanting to try or experience fishing (fishing, spear fishing or diving) and/or the less experienced boatie or kayak fisherman. The expansion would see the loss/reductions of this safe area and would force a higher number of possibly inexperienced people to traveling into open sea where the risk of being exposed elements is high or areas of the bay which are more exposed.

I have no objections to the expansion of the reserve to the north which is into open water/exposed areas.



Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 2:32 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life
Attachments: DYC submission in support of the proposals to increase marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am attaching a Word doc with Devonport Yacht Club's submission on the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Regards,

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

THE DEVONPORT YACHT CLUB (Inc)
s 9 (2)(a)

Clubhouse
Phone:
Email:
Web Site:
s 9 (2)(a)

Department of Conservation

25 October 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find below our submission in support of the proposals to increase marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission:

Name: s 9 (2)(a), Commodore, Devonport Yacht Club

Organisation: Devonport Yacht Club

This submission represents the views of the Devonport Yacht Club management committee

1. We support the five proposed Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs) but would also like to see them extended. The entire seafloor of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park should be an SPA. This is consistent with Hauraki Gulf Forum goals and Sea Change objectives to ban bottom trawling in the Gulf.

2. We support the proposed marine reserve extensions using the Marine Reserves Act but think they should be larger. Marine reserves provide an important benchmarking function and have numerous other benefits.

3. We support the proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs). We note their experimental nature and are concerned about monitoring budgets. We are concerned about customary take impacting the ambition of the biodiversity targets. Because we would like to see more of this kind of protection here and elsewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand it's important that the legislation is flexible. We support the Hauraki Gulf Forum and IUCN goals for 30% protection.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 2:41 pm
To: Sea Change

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

I absolutely disagree with the former area of Marine reserve to be extended beyond the bay we already have a huge marine reserve and making it bigger is putting more pressure on external islands.. its been proven that snapper and pelagic fish totally take over within this area and would be a waste of time thinking we need more snapper in this area.

Don't not extend off Hahei.

s 9 (2)(a)
Third generation crayfisher and local family recreational diver fisher..

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 2:49 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

Submission for *Revitalising the Gulf* Marine Protection Proposals

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

s 9 (2)(a) 25.10.22

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I live at s 9 (2)(a) On a clear day, I look out across the Hauraki gulf to Rangitoto.

Ayrlies created and looks after a large 14 hectare wetlands created in 2001 on land that was originally a salt marsh. Only New Zealand native trees and plants line the boardwalk, bridges and lake that provide an abundant refuge for wildlife. The ecologically rich environment combined with the foreshore has become home to over 82 species of native and visiting wildlife, an outstanding count by New Zealand standards including the NZ dotterel and dabchick as well as the elusive spotted crake. The small Ayrlies team, headed by Ben Conway, looks after the wetlands monitoring the land and waterways regularly trapping rats and stoats to protect nesting wildlife. The wetlands are also acknowledged as significant and culturally important. James Brown, chair of Ngai Tai ki Tamaki, recently addressed my mother, Bev McConnell, with the following words 'Your work is the work of chiefs and benefits us all. In 1000 years, Ngai Tai ki Tamaki will remember Bev McConnell for her garden and forest, which I am sure will still be casting her shadow across Turanga.'

We 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/Tīkapa 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.

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.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 3:07 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Te Whanganui a hei - Marine Reserve Extension
Attachments: Document1 [Compatibility Mode].docx

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hi:

Submission attached.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

FORSYTH BARR

s 9 (2)(a)

Marine Reserve Extension – Whanganui A Hei:

Name – s 9 (2)(a)

Status – s 9 (2)(a)

Contact Details – s 9 (2)(a)

I have read in detail the DoC Public Consultation document. In summary, I have no objection to the majority of what is proposed in the document. Ultimately the extension of the Reserve to better preserve the flora, fauna and species should be something we all aspire to as custodians of the land & sea.

However I do object to the ban on recreational fishing extending to the 800 metres along the beach. As owners of our s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a) we love the tradition of being able to surf cast off the beach in the hope of catching that elusive snapper. Generations of the family have enjoyed that experience as do numerous other batch owners and holiday makers. My observation is that the numbers of fish caught via this mode of fishing is minimal and does not pose a threat to the fishing stock nor the eco-system.

The other recreational fishing we engage in is from a boat and we accept that having to go further afield to try and catch fish is a price we are willing to pay to ensure the fishery remains healthy for future generations.

Many thanks,

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 3:36 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: submission on high protection areas Hauraki Gulf
Attachments: Seachange DOC proposal.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hi
I would like to submit my submission

Thanks
s 9 (2)(a)

Seachange
Department of Conservation
Seachange@doc.govt.nz

25 October 2022.

Submission on proposed High Protection Zones in the Hauraki gulf

My/our concerns about this process and the proposal itself can be summarised as follows:

It is not democratic

- Very little time has been given for people to hear about, understand and respond to these marine protection proposals .
- The source documents are complex and the most important information about the size and reach of the proposed High Protection Areas are located in the appendix (slides 124 to 142) of a 144 page report
- Not all relevant stakeholders or intermediaries between the proposal and the affected groups have been directly contacted by DOC or HGF to alert them to this proposal. For example bait and fishing supply shops had no idea of this proposal yet it is their customers who will be directly affected by the establishment of no fish zones around the inner gulf areas including 50 km2 area around the Noises.

It is potentially very divisive.

The proposal expressly prevents any recreational or commercial fishing in these areas but allows for :

The customary practices of mana whenua, including customary non-commercial fishing, will be provided for within HPAs. Customary practices will be managed to achieve the biodiversity objectives agreed with mana whenua for each site. Protected Customary Rights (PCR) and Customary Marine Title (CMT) recognised under the Takutai Moana Act will be unaffected.

Inevitably this will be reinterpreted as two different sets of rules for the same area of water that was once accessible to all. There is no guidance within the documentation on how this work in practice in large areas such as the Noises (50 km2) or the Motukawao Group (30 km2) which is a very popular and productive fishing area across all cultural groups, Maori, Pakeha, Pacifica and Asian

It inconsistently applies its own guidelines to justify the HPA's .

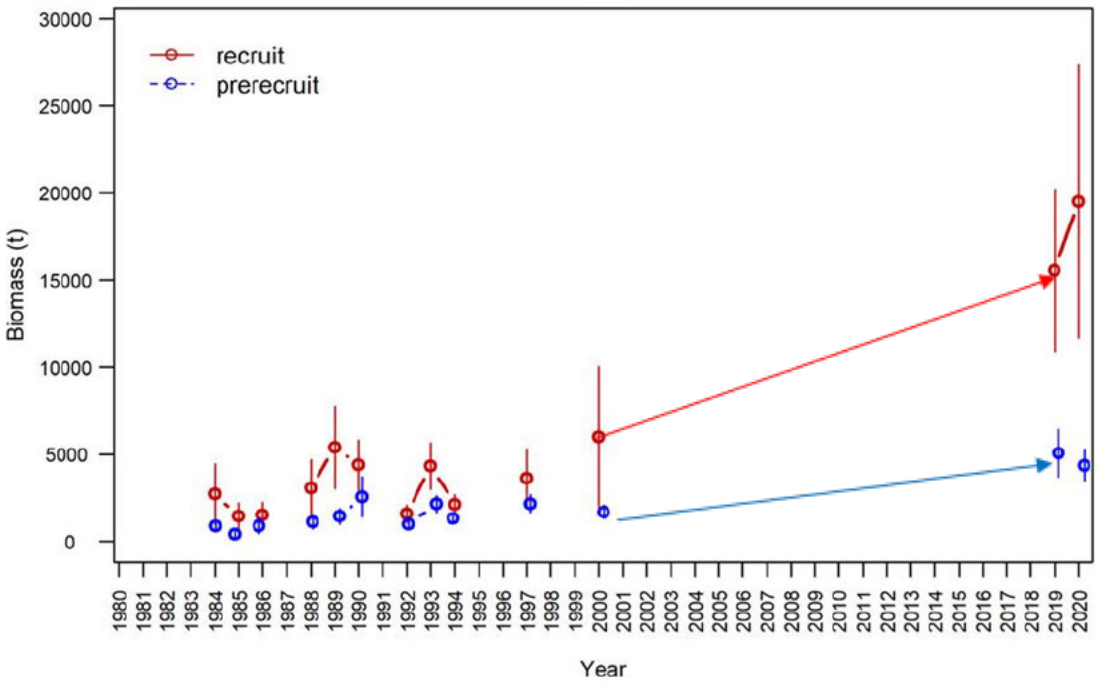
The purpose of the High Protection Ares is to *support the recovery of some of the most biodiverse regions in the Gulf*.

Some of the most at risk marine ecosystems include scallops, crayfish and the loss of kelp forests, in part, to a greater or lesser extent, due to the encroachment of kina.
Yet few of the detailed assessments outlining the ecological objectives and justification for an HPA specifically mention the protection or restoration of scallops or crayfish and in some cases the report acknowledges that *most of the soft-sediment habitat within the area has unknown values; it is thought to be dominated by mud substrate (Motukawao group).*
Nor is there any data or observations that set the benchmark on how the establishment of the specific HPA's will improve the pre-HPA ecosystems around these areas.

Part of the fundamental rationale for the establishment of these HPA's are out of date or no longer apply .
Much of the work on the establishment of these HPA's began 6- 7 years ago; well before the Gulf wide government moratorium on scallop collection or dredging, or collection of crayfish or the establishment of rahui to protect coastlines. But the rationale for these HPA's do not reflect these important advancements in the protection of sea-life and the sea floor.

The narrative of the DOC proposal and its supporting documentation also predates the publication of the NIWA trawl survey data in 2021 that shows snapper stocks and many other species have significantly recovered over recent years .
See slide below :

Fishery independent trawl surveys



HPA's are not strategically aligned to solving the biggest future threat to the Gulf .

With the reduction of commercial fishing pressure, decreases in recreational bag quota and the moratoriums on crayfish and scallop harvesting the pressure on the future of the Hauraki Gulf increasingly shifts towards land based, not sea-based activities.
The biggest threat to the recovery of the Gulf is sedimentation; from rural and forestry-based activities in the Waikato and Coromandel catchments and the rapid development of rural land for housing and commercial developments along the northern and southern coastlines of the Auckland region.
The increasing rate of subdivision, combined with higher frequency high volume rainstorms has accelerated the flow of sediments down the many streams and rivers to the estuaries that feed into our coastlines from Long bay north to Leigh, and on Waiheke Is land . And the extension of the northern motorway is only going to push that rate of sedimentation along the very coastline that feed into the HPAs for Tiritiri Matangi, Mahurangi, Kawau Is land right up to Goat Is land itself.
If we need to see what the future of suffocating sedimentation looks like, visit Long Bay reserve after a storm, or compare the health of the Waitemata harbour to what it was 6 years ago.
The danger is that the establishment of HPA's creates an illusion of protection and revitalisation when sedimentation will continue to spread across the Gulf irrespective of these new boundaries.

In summary the proposed creation of these HPA's is:

- based on out of date data and assumptions about the biggest threats to the Gulf,
- the process for gathering feedback is undemocratic
- the establishment of the HPA's is potentially very divisive between manu whenua Māori and other long established groups of gulf users.
- Will not solve the fundamental problems facing the health of the Hauraki Gulf, which are now fundamentally land based.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 3:51 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.
Attachments: Submission - Marine reserve Extension - 27 October 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please find attached our submission in the Proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Hopefully you will get this. I tried to send it from xtra account and it would not send?? Can you please confirm receipt.

Kind Regards
s 9 (2)(a) - Trustee
The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust

Sent from Mail for Windows

Submission: Proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Date: 27 October 2022

Name: s 9 (2)(a) - Trustee

Organisation: The Friend of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Maine Reserve Trust

Members: This submission has the support of the 7 Trustees: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)

Address: The Friend of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Maine Reserve Trust
C/o s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust are the regional provider for The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust in the Hauraki/Coromandel region and are extremely pleased to be able to provide the funding needed to deliver the Trust's Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) and Whitebait Connection (WBC) programmes to local area schools.

January 2016, Ministers released the public consultation document "A New Marine Protected Areas Act". This consultation document proposed a new Marine Protected Act (MPA Act) providing four new types of marine protected areas to replace the existing Marine Reserves Act 1971. In addition, it proposes recreational fishing parks in the Marlborough Sounds and Hauraki Gulf.
At that time some of our Members responded to that consultation.
We are pleased to see that several of the areas we raised concern have been taken into consideration with these new proposals.

12 High Protection Areas (HPAs):
We agree with the purpose of High Protection Areas: "To protect, enhance and restore the full range of marine communities and ecosystems and outstanding, rare, distinctive or nationally important marine habitats to protect the mauri of the Gulf." is in line with the thinking, philosophy and purpose of the Trust. We believe for the purpose of education and research these areas must be expanded and continue to be protected.

5 Seafloor Protection Areas:
These areas will protect sensitive sea floor habitats. They will do this by prohibiting activities that damage or disturb the seafloor, like bottom trawling and mining. But they will still allow for activities that do not conflict with seafloor protection objectives. Such as fishing that does not use bottom-contact methods, snorkelling, and kayaking.

We agree that activities such as bottom trawling and mining should not be allowed in protected areas.
In the previous submission made by some of our Members we advised that '*the oil, gas and minerals industries have the potential to destroy environments and exploration licenses should not prevent the establishment of an MPA.'*

2 protected areas: These will be adjacent to Cathedral Cove | Whanganui-a-Hei and Cape Rodney-Okakari Point marine reserves. These will be established as either two new High Protection Areas, or as extensions to the two existing marine reserves.

Expansion of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine

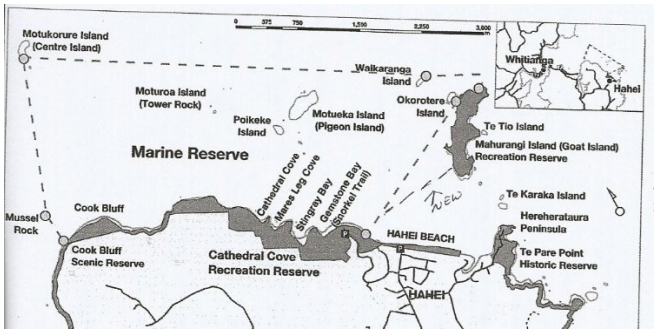
The extension would enhance the reserve by reducing the pressure of fishing at the edges, enabling effective protection of the reef ecosystem.

We agree that the reserve should be expanded with some considerations.

We agree with the seaward expansion.

We agree with the southward extension adjustment to align with the western coastline of Mahurangi Island and to avoid impacting on the recreational values associated with the eastern side of the island.

We do not agree with any inclusion of Hahei Beach. This will impact use of the beach for beach fishing and sea shell collection. It would be a bit odd to have a very popular beach cut in half and difficult to enforce.



For these Protected areas to be what they were designed to be there must be monitoring and enforcement in place. DOC must be given the authority and manpower to apply prompt penalties for any infringements. If not, the Protective Zones mean nothing!

Finally, as these areas progress, notify the public of findings in a 'plain English' manner that makes it easy to read and understand. If you really want public input you need to give them the facts and that it is working. Public support is key to the success of the proposed protected area. Regular monitoring and reporting in plain language will be necessary to ensure on-going community support.

Todays' students are tomorrow's policy makers

The Experiencing Marine Reserves programme is delivered to the youth who are going to be the future of New Zealand with the aim to increase awareness and respect for New Zealand's marine environment. We encourage leadership and development by providing a platform for the youth to take on action projects to increase protection of the environment.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 3:52 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Proposed changes to Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve
Attachments: Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve Expansion Submission Oct 2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Subject: Proposed changes to Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve

Please find attached a submission in respect of the proposal to enlarge the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve Area or incorporate it into a new High Protection Area.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

October 25th 2002

Submission in respect of Proposed Changes to the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve area.

Background

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and together with my s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a) I own a property in the village of s 9 (2)(a) We have s 9 (2)(a) and before that were regular visitors to the Hahei camping ground for many years, so have a long association with the area.

I enjoy kayaking around the local coastline and also snorkelling in the current marine reserve area at Gemstone Bay. Over the years I have seen the resurgence in marine life improve considerably as a result of the creation of the initial Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve.

Submission

- I am opposed to the proposal to anchor the southern end of the enlarged marine reserve area approximately 800 metres along Hahei Beach, rather than leaving the southern boundary at the beach end, for the following reasons;
    - The current reserve point allows easy recognition both from on land and out on the water as to where the marine reserve currently starts and ends. Signage on land also allows for those taking to the Water to easily recognise the location at the end of the beach to the one on Mahurangi island and again users will be able to line those up clearly.
    - Moving the southern end of the reserve along the beach will create confusion as to where it is located and require money to be spent on new signage and marine reserve markers.
    - There will also be an issue with policing the proposed new reserve alignment as it will now create a much greater interface with beach users, many of whom do not even enter the water but could still potentially breach the regulations by gathering shell fish or removing shells or sea weed at low tide.
    - Creating restrictions which are difficult to enforce due to greater interaction with non-water based users will only lead to conflict especially on Hahei Beach itself but also on the water when it comes to enforcing fishing restrictions.
    - The northern end of Hahei Beach is also a popular beach fishing spot as it does not conflict with boat launching at the southern end of the beach and is usually clear of swimmers who have ready access to the beach from the public car park.

- I also oppose the moving of the seaward boundary from the end of Hahei Beach to incorporate any more of Mahurangi island for the following reason;

- The island itself provides for sheltered fishing from smaller vessels and kayaks in a range of wind directions by creating a lee shore and it is within ready access for recreational users from Hahei Beach. By incorporating more of Mahurangi Island into the proposed marine reserve expansion would severely limit those small boat recreational activities which are used year round but extensively during the summer holiday period.

- I support the extension of the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve seaward as it will support an increase in the overall area of the reserve as a means of preserving marine life. In that regard my support is conditional on the basis that such an extension is from the existing land based boundary points and therefore covers an additional area as outlined in red on the following plan labelled Figure 1.

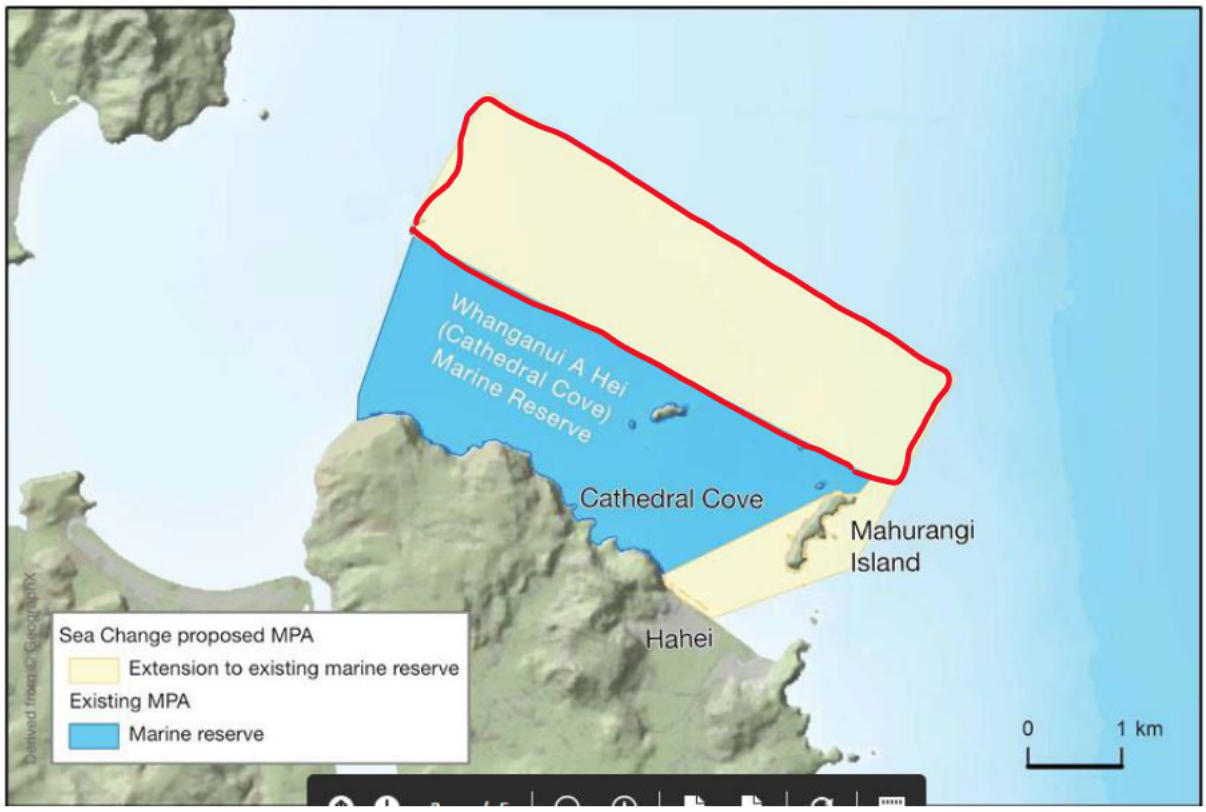


Figure 1. Proposed extension to the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve shown outlined in red.

Should you wish to discuss any further issue in this regard please contact the writer via email at s 9 (2)(a) .

Yours sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 4:12 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.
Attachments: Submission - Marine reserve Extension - 27 October 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please find attached our submission in the Proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Kind Regards
s 9 (2)(a) Trustee
The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust

Submission: Proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Date: 27 October 2022

Name: s 9 (2)(a) - Trustee

Organisation: The Friend of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Maine Reserve Trust

Members: This submission has the support of the 7 Trustees: s 9 (2)(a)

Address: The Friend of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Maine Reserve Trust
C/o s 9 (2)(a) – Secretary/Treasurer
s 9 (2)(a)

The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust are the regional provider for The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust in the Hauraki/Coromandel region and are extremely pleased to be able to provide the funding needed to deliver the Trust's Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) and Whitebait Connection (WBC) programmes to local area schools.

January 2016, Ministers released the public consultation document "A New Marine Protected Areas Act". This consultation document proposed a new Marine Protected Act (MPA Act) providing four new types of marine protected areas to replace the existing Marine Reserves Act 1971. In addition, it proposes recreational fishing parks in the Marlborough Sounds and Hauraki Gulf.
At that time some of our Members responded to that consultation.
We are pleased to see that several of the areas we raised concern have been taken into consideration with these new proposals.

12 High Protection Areas (HPAs):
We agree with the purpose of High Protection Areas: "To protect, enhance and restore the full range of marine communities and ecosystems and outstanding, rare, distinctive or nationally important marine habitats to protect the mauri of the Gulf." is in line with the thinking, philosophy and purpose of the Trust. We believe for the purpose of education and research these areas must be expanded and continue to be protected.

5 Seafloor Protection Areas:
These areas will protect sensitive sea floor habitats. They will do this by prohibiting activities that damage or disturb the seafloor, like bottom trawling and mining. But they will still allow for activities that do not conflict with seafloor protection objectives. Such as fishing that does not use bottom-contact methods, snorkelling, and kayaking.

We agree that activities such as bottom trawling and mining should not be allowed in protected areas.
In the previous submission made by some of our Members we advised that *'the oil, gas and minerals industries have the potential to destroy environments and exploration licenses should not prevent the establishment of an MPA.'*

2 protected areas: These will be adjacent to Cathedral Cove | Whanganui-a-Hei and Cape Rodney-Okakari Point marine reserves. These will be established as either two new High Protection Areas, or as extensions to the two existing marine reserves.

Expansion of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine

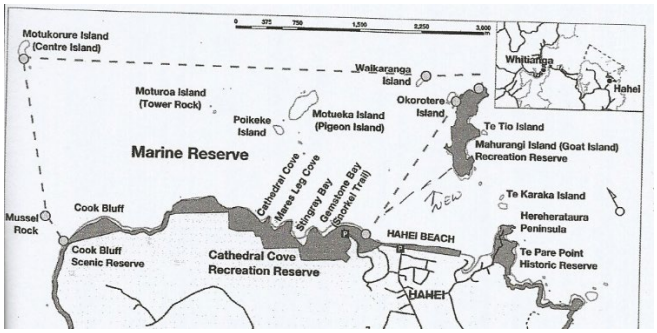
The extension would enhance the reserve by reducing the pressure of fishing at the edges, enabling effective protection of the reef ecosystem.

We agree that the reserve should be expanded with some considerations.

We agree with the seaward expansion.

We agree with the southward extension adjustment to align with the western coastline of Mahurangi Island and to avoid impacting on the recreational values associated with the eastern side of the island.

We do not agree with any inclusion of Hahei Beach. This will impact use of the beach for beach fishing and sea shell collection. It would be a bit odd to have a very popular beach cut in half and difficult to enforce.



For these Protected areas to be what they were designed to be there must be monitoring and enforcement in place. DOC must be given the authority and manpower to apply prompt penalties for any infringements. If not, the Protective Zones mean nothing!

Finally, as these areas progress, notify the public of findings in a 'plain English' manner that makes it easy to read and understand. If you really want public input you need to give them the facts and that it is working. Public support is key to the success of the proposed protected area. Regular monitoring and reporting in plain language will be necessary to ensure on-going community support.

Todays' students are tomorrow's policy makers

The Experiencing Marine Reserves programme is delivered to the youth who are going to be the future of New Zealand with the aim to increase awareness and respect for New Zealand's marine environment. We encourage leadership and development by providing a platform for the youth to take on action projects to increase protection of the environment.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 5:45 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Personal submission in support of the proposals to increase marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf
Attachments: Personal submission in support of the proposals to increase marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached our submission in support of the proposals to increase marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

Department of Conservation

25 October 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find below our submission in support of the proposals to increase marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission:

Name: s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Organisation: nil. We are a yachting family.

This submission represents our personal views, though they align with those of s 9 (2)(a) and the scientific community, as well as Devonport Yacht Club.

1. We support the five proposed Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs) but would also like to see them extended. The entire seafloor of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park should be an SPA. This is consistent with Hauraki Gulf Forum goals and Sea Change objectives to ban bottom trawling in the Gulf.

2. We support the proposed marine reserve extensions using the Marine Reserves Act but think they should be larger. Marine reserves provide an important benchmarking function and have numerous other benefits.

3. We support the proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs). We note their experimental nature and are concerned about monitoring budgets. We are concerned about customary take impacting the ambition of the biodiversity targets. Because we would like to see more of this kind of protection here and elsewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand it's important that the legislation is flexible. We support the Hauraki Gulf Forum and IUCN goals for 30% protection.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 5:48 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Marine protection plan - Hahei Marine Reserve extension

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hahei Marine Reserve extension submission.

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

As s 9 (2)(a) we do not support inclusion of any part of the beach into the Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension.

Our reasons are as follows.

To restrict hitherto permitted recreational activities on half of a small a popular public beach is unreasonable.

We fully support Marine Conservation efforts. However there are so many other boundaries that could be set that would have a far more significant impact than the inclusion of this little extra stretch of public beach

We have no issue with extending the Reserve out to sea.

If DOC are really serious about Marine Reserves and allowing fish stocks to replenish then why not take the entire coastline from the Pa Site to Hot Water Beach? The commercial cray fisherman would not be supportive but the benefit to fisheries overall would be huge.
Why not extend round towards Cooks Beach?
What about the entire remote East and West coastlines north of Coromandel town?

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.

Our family has visited Hahei since 1986 our children and grandchildren love to play at the beach. Are we now to tell them they cannot take back a few shells and stones in their bucket or that granddad cannot take fishing rods down for them to hold?

I have cast a rod off that end of the Beach for nearly 40 years and despite the 1986 Marine Reserve formation the fishing has got worse not better.
We went to Gemstone bay in small dinghy a few months ago. We were surprised that when we stopped to wait for our son in a kayak to catch up, that snapper swarmed around the boat obviously waiting to be fed. Talking to other locals about this, it is common knowledge that both private and tourism boats throw in food to attract fish around them. It appears to us that the Reserve is becoming a more of a tourist attraction / snapper zoo than a true Marine Conservation area.

We prefer dotterels to roaming pets but I am sure the many dog owners here will not support their dogs being excluded from half of the beach or is a fence the next step?

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

regards s 9 (2)(a)

25/10/22

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 6:59 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: changes to marine reserve in Hahei

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Submission on proposed changes to existing marine reserved in Hahei

s 9 (2)(a)
ratepayer s 9 (2)(a) email s 9 (2)(a)

I do not think it a good idea to expand the reserve to a difficult to pinpoint spot in the middle of the beach at Hahei How will a boat see what the point is from out at sea? the present line is well defined.
I also don't see how collecting empty sea shells/ driftwood on the beach is a problem ? how does that affect sealife in the ocean? How will such a normal seaside activity be policed? sounds rather expensive and difficult..also makes a simple pleasure, enjoyed by many, into an offence????
I tried to read the document about all these proposed changes...a very complicated and verbose document....is there a clear map of what is proposed over the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel areas showing exactly what areas will be unable to be fished and what areas will be unable to be walked on/pickup shells off swim at etc etc.
I am in favour of controlling fishing in some areas to allow fish/sea life to regenerate but people still exist and want to wander and use the beaches.
Beach life is part of New Zealand life..let's not make it too controlled by numerous laws that most of us don't even know exist.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 7:04 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Gulf Subsmission
Attachments: Seachange Submission.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora,
Attached is my submission for Revitalising the Gulf in support of further protected areas. It is based on my research scholarship findings from the summer of 2020/21 through the s 9 (2)(a) a)

Ngā mihi nui,
s 9 (2)(a)

Seachange Revitalising the Gulf Submission- 25th October 2022

Name: s 9 (2)(a)
Organisation: I completed the following report as part of a research scholarship over the summer of 2020/2021 through the s 9 (2)(a). While I would imagine that my views are representative of this organisation, I can't say for certain.
Email: s 9 (2)(a)
Cellphone: s 9 (2)(a)

Growing up on s 9 (2)(a) the Hauraki Gulf is an integral part of my life. It is the source of my passion for the ocean and holds a significant amount of personal as well as biodiversity value for me. I am also acutely aware of how it is becoming increasingly degraded due to numerous anthropogenic factors. From my marine science studies, I have come to appreciate the biological, social and economic benefits of marine reserves. I definitely agree that more protected zones are needed, especially at Cape Rodney-Okakari Point and Tāwharanui. Below is the report I wrote as part of a summer scholarship at the University of Auckland that details the scientific justification to extend both reserves.

Report Summary: This research project has contributed to the understanding of the decline of important predators within Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui marine reserves and how this relates to marine reserve design. Species such as lobster and snapper play a key role in structuring the ecosystem around them through predation and for this reason, are referred to as keystone species. If marine reserves don't include the entire home range of keystone species, they are vulnerable to capture when they cross reserve boundaries to access these habitats. This in turn impacts the delicate balance of the whole ecosystem and jeopardizes the effectiveness of marine reserves, especially for lobsters. Additionally, many benthic species found in the deeper soft sediment habitats beyond the current boundaries of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui marine reserves are distinct and absent closer to shore. Together, these findings frame an argument for the extension of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui marine reserves as presented in the following report.

A CASE FOR THE EXTENSION OF CAPE RODNEY - OKAKARI POINT AND TĀWHARANUI MARINE RESERVES

Caption: Goat Island snapper control kina populations and maintain ecosystem balance (Source: Skerry, New Zealand Geographic).

REPORT BY s 9 (2)(a) **, Summer of 2020**

WITH GUIDANCE FROM s 9 (2)(a)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

“Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta , toitū te marae a Tangaroa, toitū te tangata”. If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive.

Abstract

Seachange recommends the extension of the boundaries of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve from 800 m to 3.8 km offshore. Keystone predators such as red rock lobster, snapper and stingrays are vital to the structure of this ecosystem. However, red rock lobster in particular have undergone noticeable decline within the reserve, despite them being protected inside its boundaries. Research has shown these mobile keystone species are leaving the safety of the reserve for reefs and deep soft sediment habitats further offshore, where they are vulnerable to fisheries capture. Furthermore, many of the soft sediment species of deeper waters are distinctive and are not protected within the current boundaries of either Cape Rodney - Okakari Point or Tāwharanui Marine Reserves. Including as much of the home range of keystone species within the reserve as possible will lessen cross boundary movement and therefore, restore their populations and the vital habitat structuring role they play within the marine reserve. While no formal recommendation has been made as of yet, there is also evidence to suggest that there would be benefit in extending Tāwharanui Marine Reserve on similar grounds with support from Ngati Manuhiri. This report explores the consequences of extending the boundaries of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves.

1. Background

As described by the Marine Reserves Act 1971 (New Zealand Legislation 2020), marine reserves exist for:

> *“the purpose of preserving, as marine reserves for the scientific study of marine life, areas of New Zealand that contain underwater scenery, natural features, or marine life, of such distinctive quality, or so typical, or beautiful, or unique, that their continued preservation is in the national interest.”*

This provision of marine reserves sets a precedent that formally defines what is worthy of protection in New Zealand’s marine environment.

The following report puts forward the case for extending the offshore boundaries of both the Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui marine reserves to provide more effective protection of their biodiversity, habitats and overall ecosystem functioning.

1.1. Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve

Established in 1975, the Cape Rodney - Okakari Point (CROP) Marine Reserve is New Zealand’s oldest marine reserve and it is often also called the Goat Island Marine Reserve (Department of Conservation 2020a). It extends seaward for 800 m from the shoreline over 5 km from Okakari Point to Cape Rodney, protecting 547 ha of coastal waters (Department of Conservation 2020a). The

marine habitats on the hard inshore substrate are highly diverse and include rocky reefs, kelp forests, sponge gardens and sand flats (Department of Conservation 2020a; figures 1a and 1b). Recent examination of the areas of soft sediment within the reserve confirm the diversity of habitats continues into deeper waters. Accordingly, the reserve supports extensive biodiversity with many of the species present within the reserve being endemic.

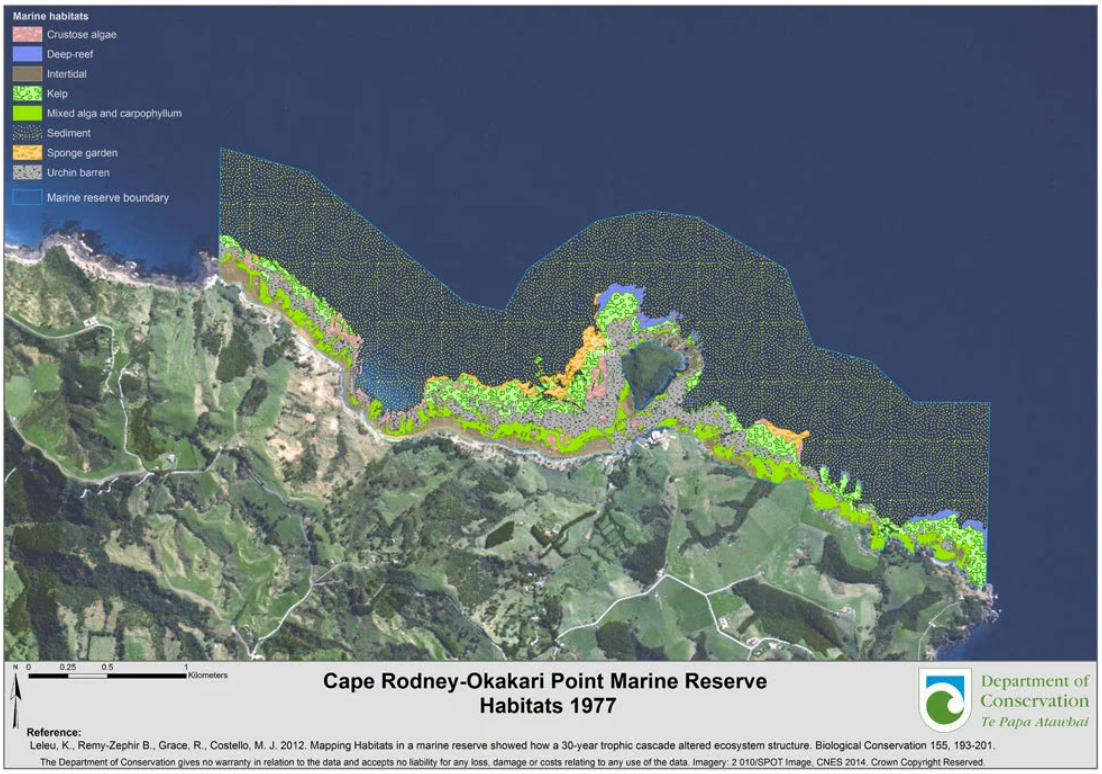


Figure 1a. Habitat map of Cape Rodney-Okakari Point area prepared 2 years after it was protected in 1975 (Leleu et al 2012).

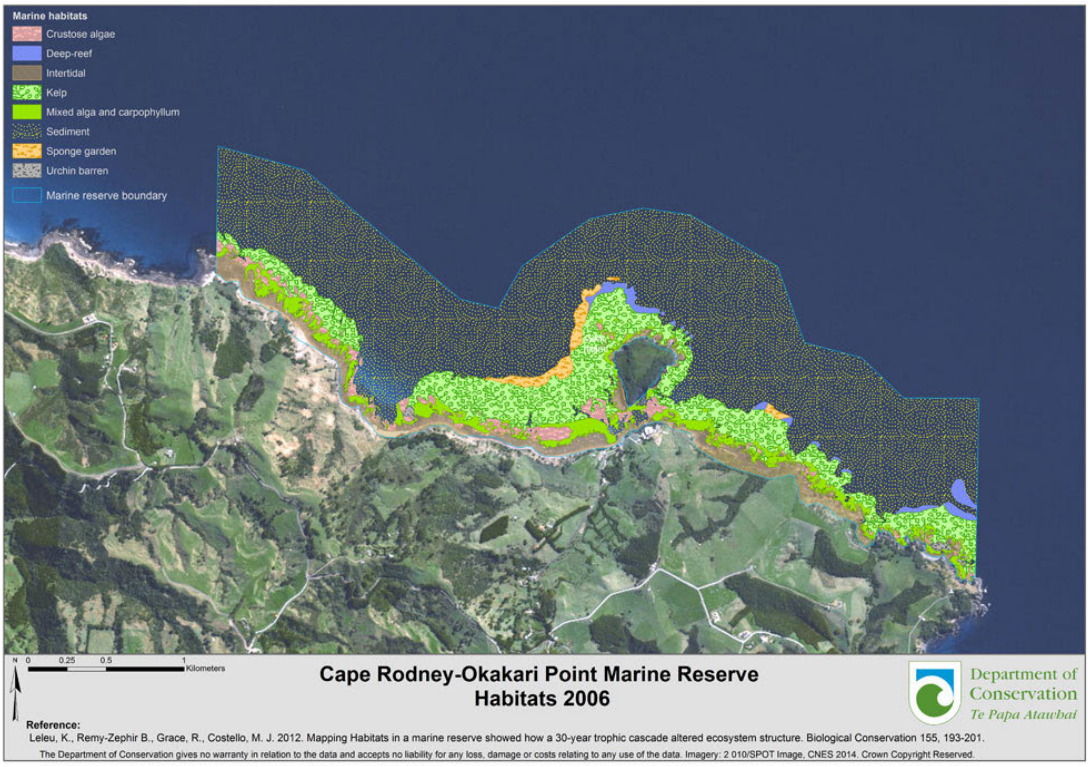


Figure 1b. Habitat map of Cape Rodney-Okakari Point area after it had been protected for 31 years showing the marked increase in kelp habitats compared to the map prepared in 1977 (Leleu et al 2012).

The land surrounding the marine reserve is known as Wakatūwhenua to Māori and is of immense cultural significance to Ngāti Manuhiri- the mana whenua of the area as this was the landing place of their ancestral Ngāi Tāhuhu waka (New Zealand Government 2011). Evidence of Māori settlement and cultivation is still readily visible (New Zealand Government 2011; Department of Conservation 2020a). Motu Hāwere or Goat Island and the water surrounding it is also important to Ngāti Manuhiri as it was originally named Te Hāwere ā Maki after Maki, one of their founding ancestors and the father of Manuhiri, after whom the iwi takes its name (New Zealand Government 2011). While this area endured a tumultuous period following the arrival of European settlers and subsequent colonisation, today mana whenua and the government are working more together to protect both the ecological and cultural value of this landscape so that future generations can also share in its unique natural values (New Zealand Government 2011). CROP Marine Reserve has become an exemplar of the transformation that can occur when marine environments are protected and allowed to recover and highlights the important role these areas play in culture, education, tourism and contribution to fisheries productivity outside the reserve.

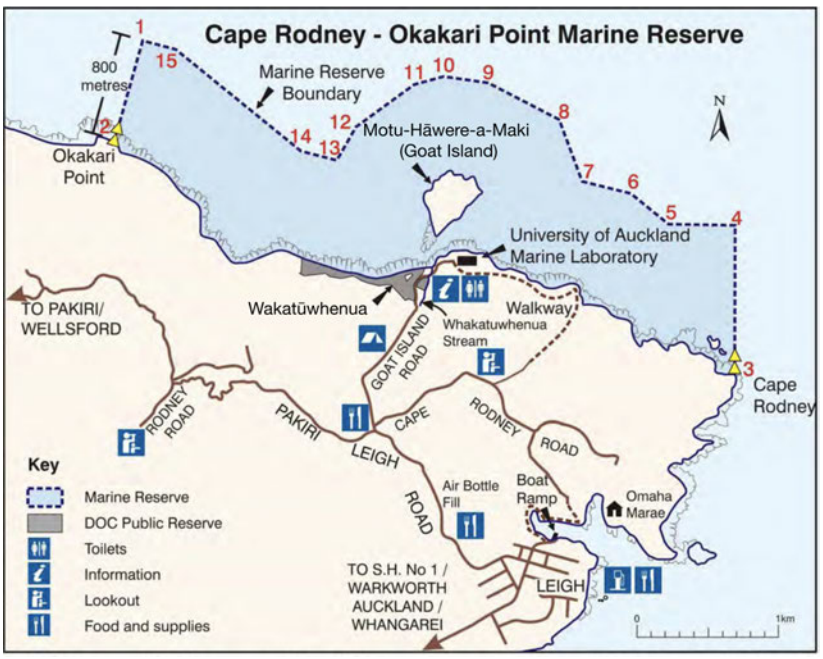


Figure 1c. Visitor map of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve (Source: Department of Conservation 2020a).

1.2. Tāwharanui Marine Reserve

The Tāwharanui Marine Reserve is located 10 km south of CROP and encompasses 394 ha of shoreline and coastal waters out to a maximum of 900 m offshore of Tāwharanui Regional Park (Sea Change 2017; Department of Conservation 2020b). While fishing in the Tāwharanui area was originally banned under fisheries regulations since 1981, it was subsequently made a marine reserve in 2011 (Department of Conservation 2020b). The Tāwharanui coastline is dominated by highly biodiverse reefs, which are home to at least 50 species of fish (Department of Conservation 2020b). Other types of marine habitats in the reserve include coralline turf, kelp forests and sand flats (Department of Conservation 2020b). At CROP marine reserve, the sea floor further offshore is dominated by fine sand to the west and coarse sand to the east of Goat Island, whereas offshore at Tāwharanui, the seabed habitats are muddier overall (Taylor and Morrison 2008; Schoensee 2020). At Tāwharanui, increasing depth is associated with increasingly finer sediments (Taylor and Morrison 2008). Furthermore, higher wave action and stronger currents at Tāwharanui likely contribute to the control of sediment size and most likely, the assemblages of benthic fauna found in these seafloor habitats. These deep soft sediments only begin beyond the current boundaries of the Marine Reserve.

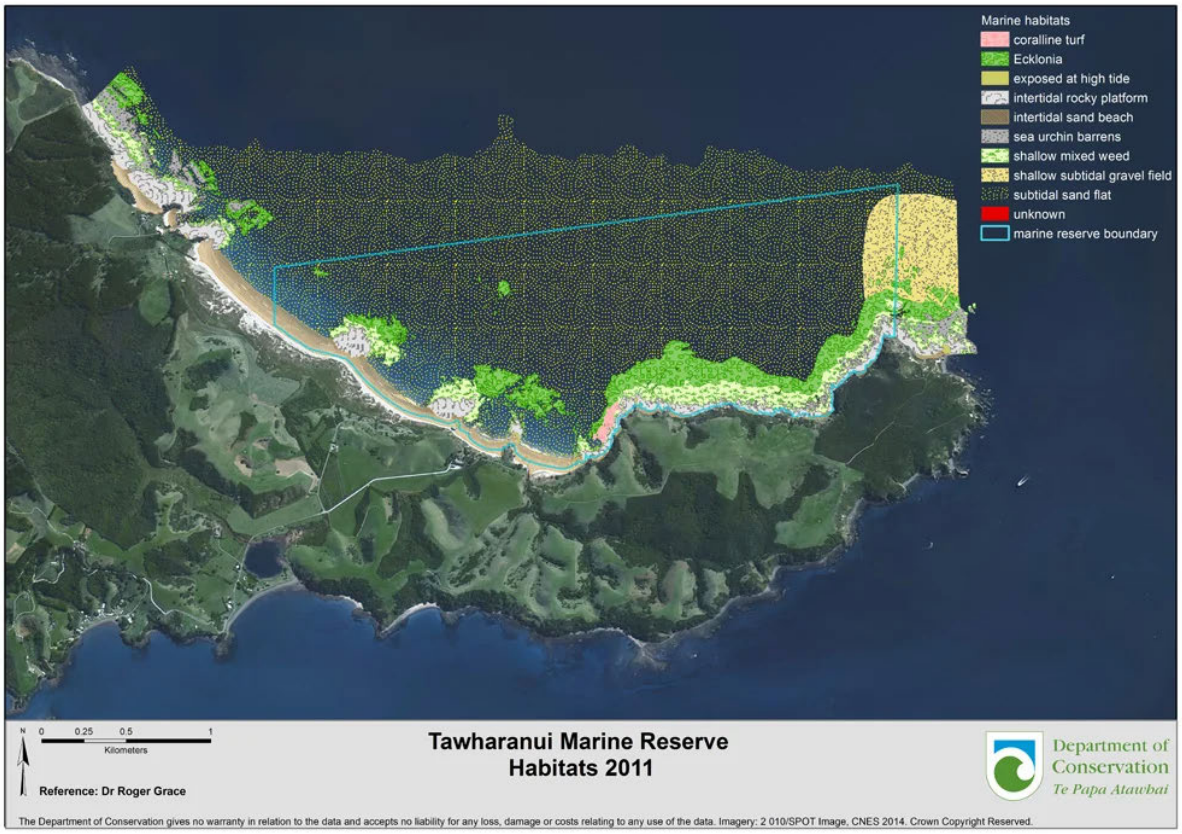


Figure 2a. Habitat diversity of Tāwharanui marine reserve (Source: Grace and Department of Conservation 2014).

Tāwharanui is also of great cultural significance to local Māori (Auckland Regional Council 2020). The rich natural resources of the area supported Māori settlement from around 1200 onwards and the remains of pā, kainga, middens, sacred sites and horticultural activity are still visible today (Auckland Regional Council 2020). This area is particularly important to mana whenua as this was the landing site of ancient waka including the Tainui canoe that transported the ancestors of Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngati Raupō from the Pacific to Aotearoa (Auckland Regional Council 2020). There have been many other tribal groups associated with the area over time (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Furthermore, Tāwharanui was the site of many battles both between Māori tribes and between Māori and Europeans (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Tāwharanui later hosted a succession of European owners from the mid 1800's who valued the area in a different way, mostly through more intensive logging and agriculture (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Today, the land around the marine reserve is a Regional Park that is managed as a pest free sanctuary protected by a predator proof fence with extensive restoration and predator control work undertaken by a dedicated group of volunteers (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Tāwharanui represents this intersection of cultures; the shared historical and ecological value that it offers to all people and therefore, highlights why Tāwharanui is worthy of protection.

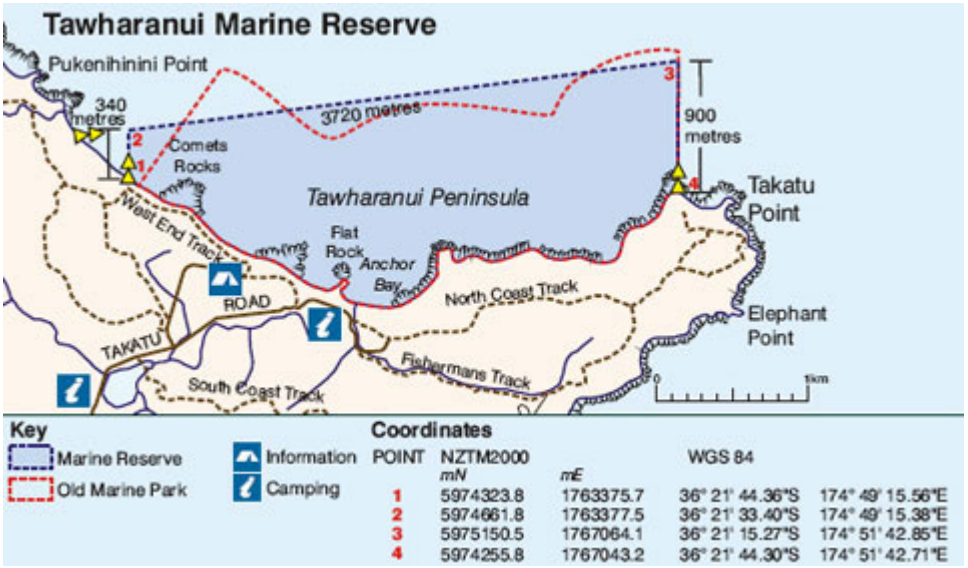


Figure 2b. Visitor map for the Tāwharanui Marine Reserve (Source: Department of Conservation 2020b).

Figure 2c. Locality map highlighting Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves (Source: Department of Conservation 2020).

1.3. Aims and Objectives

To explore the consequences of extending of CROP and Tāwharanui marine reserves, the aims of this report are three-fold:

a) To review existing literature on ecologically important mobile species that are known to move beyond the boundaries of the two marine reserves and in doing so, become vulnerable to capture. Red rock lobster, snapper and stingrays are three such species.
b) To review existing literature on the seafloor habitats and species that are found beyond the boundaries of the marine reserve and to undertake a survey of the benthic fauna to extend this knowledge.
c) To explore the scientific rationale for extending these marine reserves by reviewing the existing literature on the configuration of boundaries of marine reserves and how it may impact the natural ecosystem and human activities.

2. Predator species

By definition, a keystone species is a species which has inordinate control of the ecosystem around it despite its relatively low abundance. In marine ecosystems, predators are frequently keystone species, often playing an important role in structuring the surrounding ecosystem. Maintaining populations of keystone predators is important for maintaining the structure of the ecosystem, especially their prey species and the habitats in which they live (Babcock et al 1999; Shears and Babcock 2002; Langlois 2005; Babcock 2013). Red rock lobsters and snapper are two important keystone species within the CROP and Tāwharanui marine reserves that maintain the ecosystem structure through their predatory activities on rocky reefs and sand flats (Babcock et al 1999; Shears and Babcock 2002; Langlois 2005; Babcock 2013). Eagle rays and short-tailed stingrays will also contribute to the structuring of benthic soft sediment communities through predation, although there is much less known about their role (Hines et al 1997; Davis 2012; Richard Taylor pers comm.). In the years following the establishment of CROP, an increase in the populations of lobster and snapper in the reserve facilitated the recovery of the kelp (*Ecklonia radiata*) population in the reserve through their predation of kina (*Evechinus chloroticus)* which otherwise consume the kelp (Babcock et al 1999; Shears and Babcock 2002; Department of Conservation 2011). Overgrazing of kelp by kina creates and maintains barren rock habitat which is less productive and biologically diverse than kelp forest habitat (Figs 1a and 1b; Taylor 1998; Babcock et al 1999; Shears and Babcock 2002). A similar trend was also recorded at Tāwharanui marine reserve (Babcock 2013). The biological effect is known as a "trophic cascade" whereby the reduction in the population of keystone predators by fishing creates a series of changes in the ecosystem and services that it once provided as a result of their ecological interdependencies (Babcock et al 1999; Shears and Babcock 2002; Department of Conservation 2011). Kelp forest habitats are highly productive through capturing energy from the sun and nutrients from coastal waters, and combining them to make food resources available for many other organisms to utilise (Zuercher and Galloway 2019).

The structure of soft sediment benthic ecosystems is also impacted by the size and abundance of keystone predators (Langlois et al 2006; Babcock 2013). Within CROP and Tāwharanui, rock lobsters

and snapper are larger and more abundant than they are outside, in turn impacting the size of the prey they target and therefore, the overall food web and habitat structure within the reserves (Babcock et al 1999; Langlois et al 2006; Babcock 2013). For example, soft sediment bivalves such as fine dosinia *(Dosinia subrosea)* occur in lower densities at a smaller size on average inside the reserve than outside, due to the activities of larger predators within the reserve (Langlois et al 2006).

Due to the vitally important role keystone predators play in maintaining ecosystem integrity within marine reserves, it is important that the reserves provide sufficient protection to maintain their populations. It was previously believed by some that mobile keystone species such as snapper, lobster and stingrays would not benefit from marine protected areas because they have the ability to move beyond the reserve boundaries (Le Port et al 2012). However, many keystone species, including snapper and lobster, have been shown to exhibit residency or maintain some site fidelity and can therefore be protected by marine reserves provided their boundaries encompass their home ranges (Le Port et al 2012).

2.1. Red Rock Lobster *(Jasus edwardsii)*

The red rock lobster or crayfish (*Jasus edwardsii*) is a slow growing, omnivorous benthic predator that mainly occupies crevices in rocky reef habitats in shallow waters around much of New Zealand (MacDiarmid 1987). Red rock lobsters are a keystone species because they structure the ecosystems through their predatory activities in both rocky reef and sand flat communities in shallow coastal waters (MacDiarmid 1987; Langlois 2005). Therefore, to ensure natural ecological functioning within a marine reserve, it is important to ensure the resident rock lobster population is protected so that it can reach natural abundance and size range. Outside both the CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves, the lobster fishery in the regional management area of CRA2 has declined dramatically over the last 60 years, which in turn has put pressure on lobster populations inside the reserve (Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). Red rock lobsters are now regarded as functionally extinct in the Hauraki Gulf because their numbers are so low that they can no longer perform their naturally crucial ecological role (Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). Lobster fishers have removed lobsters from the protection of the marine reserve by fishing along the boundaries and by catching lobsters immediately beyond the boundaries during periods of their seasonal migrations offshore (Department of Conservation 2016a;b). In 2016, only one third of the rock lobster population recorded in CROP Marine Reserve in 2006 remained (Department of Conservation 2016b). Similarly, at Tāwharanui, there were 2.5 times more rock lobsters in 2009 than there were in 2016 (Department of Conservation 2016a). Lobsters living outside reserves also tend to have a higher incidence of disease such as tail fan necrosis than their counterparts within reserves due to the handling and return of undersized and damaged lobsters by fishers (Freeman and MacDiarmid 2009; Zha et al 2017).

2.2. Lobster movement

The movements of red rock lobsters that live in the CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves makes them vulnerable to capture. Red rock lobsters undertake seasonal movements from the rocky reefs lining the coastline out onto the sand flats in deeper water (Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). The frequency and intensity of these movements varies seasonally (Kelly 2001). Resident lobsters in the CROP marine reserve move about 12 km per year in total but generally do not move more than 3 km away from the inshore reef from which they mostly reside (Kelly 2001; Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003). It is

likely that offshore movement is in response to moulting, reproduction and feeding, however, water temperature and habitat type may also influence their offshore movements (Kelly 2001; Richard Taylor pers. comm). The patterns of movement are different between the sexes, with female lobsters moving away from their resident reef mostly in September and October at the later stages of egg-bearing and spawning whereas the male lobsters move mostly in January and July-September, which relates to their moulting and feeding (Kelly 2001). This highlights how inshore-offshore movements can impact the sex ratios of lobsters on rocky reefs within marine reserves (Richard Taylor pers. comm).

It is estimated that around 20% of tagged adult lobsters associated with the inshore rocky reefs within the CROP move back and forth beyond the boundaries of the reserve (Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003, Figs. 4-6). The extent of the site association of the lobsters is positively correlated with their size, such that it tends to be smaller and younger lobsters that travel beyond the boundaries of the marine reserve (Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003). The failure to accommodate the movement of lobsters within the reserve boundaries, and consequently losing them to fishing, risks the stability of the lobster population in the marine reserve and in turn, the structure of the ecosystem in the reserve (Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003). Evidence of these population impacts inside both reserves have already been visible for some time (Department of Conservation 2016a;b). These negative impacts threaten the biological integrity within both reserves at species, community and ecosystem levels. Therefore, adjusting the boundaries of the marine reserves to provide greater protection for lobsters during their seasonal movements off the reef would be of great benefit.

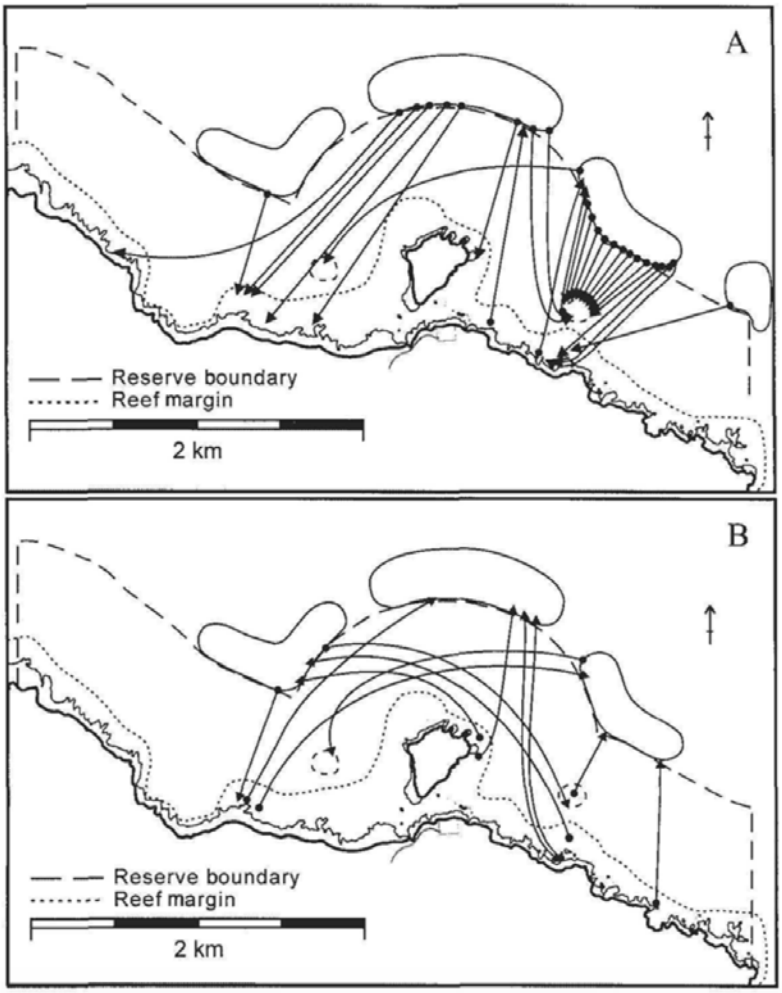


Figure 4. Maps showing the offshore movements of red rock lobsters that are normally resident in the CROP marine reserve which was measured over two time periods between 1983-1985 and 1994-1996. A total of 1166 lobsters were tagged during this time using antennal tags and either T-bar tags or western rock lobster tags. The bubbles represent tagging sites and each line represents an individual lobster and the direction in which it traveled. Map A shows movements of females, and Map B shows movements of males (Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003).

Figure 5. Underwater photograph showing an aggregation of large male red rock lobsters on soft sediment habitat offshore of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve that have undertaken seasonal movements from shallow reefs within the marine reserve and are vulnerable to capture (see Figure 4A). The white rectangle is A4 for scale. An acoustic tracker is attached to the back of one lobster to allow the lobster aggregation to be located. (Source: Kelly 1999).

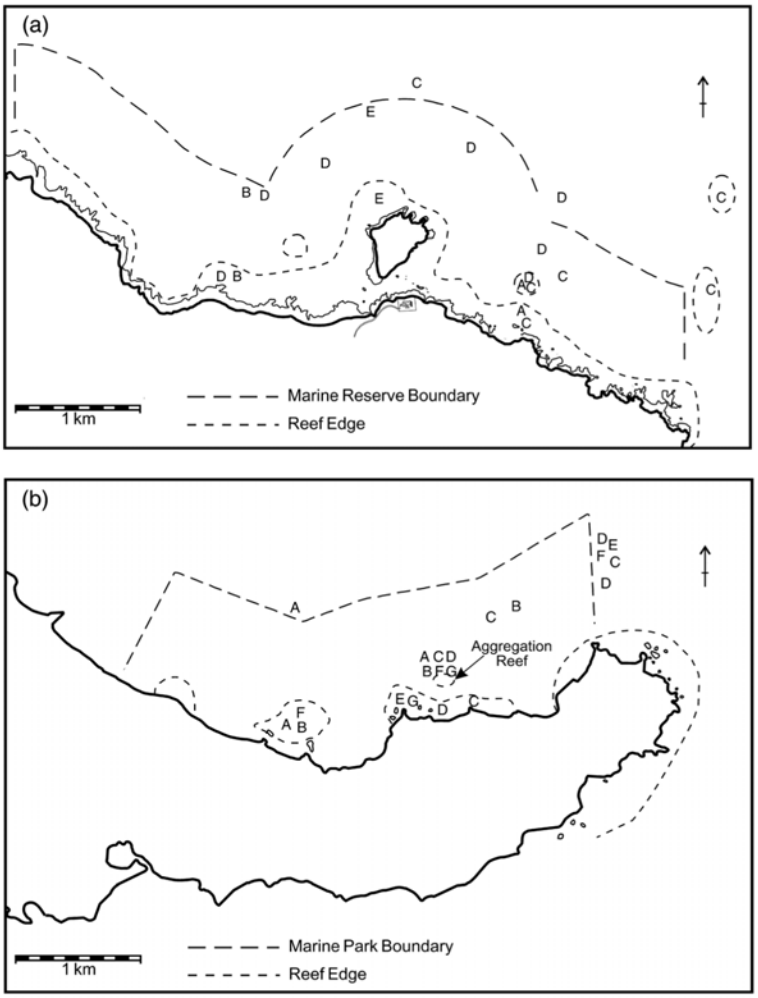


Figure 6. Maps showing the offshore destinations of individually tracked lobsters labelled A-G for the A) CROP Marine Reserve and B) Tāwharanui Marine Reserve. Each letter appears twice within each diagram, corresponding to the journey of each individual lobster. Labels A-C represent male lobsters and D-G are females (Source: Kelly 2001).

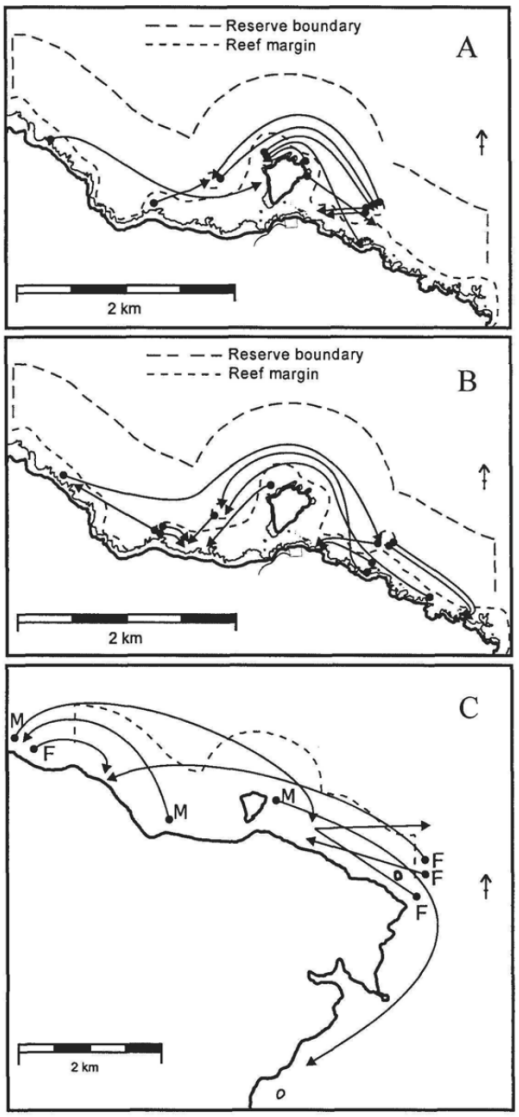


Figure 7. Map showing the longshore movements of red rock lobster that are resident in the CROP marine reserve which were measured over two time periods between 1983-1985 and 1994-1996. A total of 1166 lobsters were tagged during this time using antennal tags and either T-bar tags or western rock lobster tags. F represents female lobsters and M represents males and each line represents an individual and the direction it travelled (Source: Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003).

2.3. Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*)

Snapper *(Pagrus auratus)* is a warm temperate demersal fish species that is commonly associated with the coastal rocky reefs of northern New Zealand (Paulin 1990). Snapper are keystone predators in both CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves where they feed on a variety of species including echinoderms, crustaceans and molluscs (Paulin 1990). The two reserves are included in the SNA1 fisheries management area which extends from the Bay of Plenty to North Cape and has a total annual catch of over 7,500 tonnes (Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). The snapper population in the Hauraki Gulf, which used to harbour large abundances of snapper has undergone an 83% decline since 1960 (Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). Within CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves, snapper populations

have increased and are 30.2 times more abundant than those immediately outside the reserve (Department of Conservation 2007; Department of Conservation 2011). Those snapper living within the marine reserve are also consistently of a larger size due to the removal of larger snapper outside the reserve (Department of Conservation 2007). The continuing increase in the abundance and size of snapper observed since the establishment of the CROP marine reserve is also evident at Tāwharanui, albeit at a slightly slower rate (Department of Conservation 2007; Department of Conservation 2011). It is thought that these changes in the snapper populations in these marine reserves are most likely due to a combination of the prohibition of fishing as well as the improvements in habitat quality resulting from protection as a marine reserve (Department of Conservation 2011). The changes in the snapper populations demonstrate how marine reserves can revitalise localised populations of targeted species that have been exhausted by fisheries. Surveys have shown that snapper are less abundant at the margins of the CROP Marine Reserve than they are in the centre suggesting they are affected by fishing at the boundaries of the reserve, especially the western end of the reserve where the lowest abundance and average size of snapper are found (Willis et al 2003; Department of Conservation 2007; Egli 2007). An equivalent study has not yet been undertaken at Tāwharanui Marine Reserve (Department of Conservation 2007).

2.4. Snapper movement

The apparent overall increase in snapper in the CROP Marine Reserve may not be the result of recruitment and subsequent growth of juveniles within the reserve, but rather the result of individuals moving into the reserve from outside to become resident (Willis et al 2003). The overall abundance of snapper within the CROP Marine Reserve varies seasonally, being higher in the summer and lower in the winter, which is linked to sea surface temperature (Egli 2007). It is estimated that 66% of snapper found within CROP Marine Reserve show strong site fidelity, while the remainder are moving across the boundaries of the reserve during spring (Egli 2007). These movements across the reserve boundaries are thought to be due to responses to water temperature, and the use of habitats outside the reserve for feeding, and joining spawning aggregations (Willis et al 2003; Egli 2007). However, the vast majority of spawning of snapper living inside CROP Marine Reserve occurs within the reserve (Egli 2007), contributing around 11% of the resulting juvenile snapper to coastal areas in the vicinity of the reserve (Le Port et al 2017). The maximum time a tagged snapper spent outside the reserve during one study was 221 consecutive days and the median home range was 1246 m^2, which was not restricted to inside the reserve (Egli 2007). It has been suggested that marine reserves need to be large enough to accommodate the movements of important mobile species to prevent their capture, because such fishing pressure forces the evolutionary for extreme residency behaviour, which ultimately makes their populations more vulnerable (Parsons et al 2010; Babcock et al 2012). Snapper travel exceptionally long migratory distances and therefore, would not be fully protected by the proposed extension to the current CROP boundary. Nevertheless, it has been argued that CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves need to be extended to conserve mobile resident species as much as possible and the habitats they need to survive (Egli 2007; Babcock et al 2012).

2.5. Eagle Ray (*Myliobatis tenuicaudatus*) and Short-Tailed Stingray (*Dasyatis brevicaudatus*)

Comparatively little research has been conducted on eagle rays or short-tailed stingrays in CROP or Tāwharanui marine reserves. Nevertheless, both species are predators that move between the rocky reefs within both reserves, of which many are thought to be resident, to soft sediment environments in surrounding areas to feed (Hines et al 1997; Langlois 2005; Davis 2012). Eagle rays are common in shallow coastal waters of the North Island, often moving onto shellfish beds to feed during high tides and retreating with the outgoing tide (Davis 2012; NIWA 2012). They mostly feed in soft sediment environments offshore by using jets of water to dig out bivalves, small crustaceans and worms to eat (Davis 2012). In this way, eagle rays play a role in structuring benthic habitats (Hines et al 1997; Davis 2012). In the summer months, eagle rays are more commonly around rocky reefs closer to shore for breeding purposes (NIWA 2012), with females being found in shallow waters during spring, whilst giving birth. As a result, the sex ratios making up the population structure of eagle rays in rocky reef and soft sediment habitats vary depending on the time of year (Hartill 1989; Davis 2012; NIWA 2012). Short-tailed stingrays grow to a larger size than eagle rays but have a similar distribution in shallow coastal waters (Le Port 2012; Roycroft et al 2019). They exhibit similar feeding and reproductive behaviours but are generally more social (Torres and Bailly 2020). Short-tailed stingrays also reproduce and grow relatively slowly, therefore it could be assumed that they would get significant benefit from the extended refuge provided by CROP and Tāwharanui marine reserves (Le Port et al 2012).

The movement of both species is likely linked to reproduction, feeding, predator avoidance and water temperature (Le Port et al 2012). Beyond the boundaries of the reserve, they are both vulnerable to fisheries bycatch and habitat degradation (Davis 2012; Le Port et al 2012; Roycroft et al 2019). Both species of ray also share their main predators, which are: orcas and sharks (NIWA 2012). Undoubtedly, more research into both species, particularly in regards to their movements and population structure in CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves is important to better understand their patterns of movement and use of marine reserves (Roycroft et al 2019).

3. Habitats and biodiversity beyond marine reserve boundaries

While the rocky reef and surrounding habitats within both CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves are fully protected within the boundaries of both reserves, the habitats beyond the boundaries, namely the sand and mud flats, are unique and of value to local species, as indicated by the movements of keystone predators, such as red rock lobster and snapper. Therefore, many argue that these areas also warrant protection. Extending the boundaries of both marine reserves would not only provide greater protection to keystone predator species but also their prey, habitats and associated ecological processes in their own right as is intended by the Marine Reserves Act 1971 (New Zealand Legislation 2020).

3.1. Deep soft-sediment habitats

The sand flats of Omaha Bay (which encompasses Tāwharanui Marine Reserve, see light blue dots in figure 8) are home to 236 benthic species from 13 different phyla within >30m of depth (Taylor and

Morrison 2008). In soft sediment habitats, the species assemblages vary with the combination of depth and sediment type (Taylor and Morrison 2008). The composition of sediment type is partially controlled by water depth, with finer sediments (fine sand and mud) tending to accumulate in deeper water, while more coarse sediment (sand and gravel) tend to accumulate in shallower water. As a result of this, the deeper water offshore of Tāwharanui has more fine sediment whereas CROP has more coarse sediment. The composition of the seafloor sediment influences the habitat type that is present and therefore, the diversity and abundance of resident species (Schoensee 2020). For example, increasing depth is associated with increasing mud content of sediments which in turn, supports an increase in species diversity (Taylor and Morrison 2008; Richard Taylor pers comm., see figure 9). Neither CROP or Tāwharanui Marine Reserves currently extend beyond 30 m of depth, meaning that these important muddy sediments and the unique deeper water habitats are excluded from protection. Many of the species found in the deep habitats are not present in the soft sediment habitats closer to shore and within the boundaries of the existing reserves (Richard Taylor pers comm.). As part of this research project, I was involved with a seafloor sampling exercise beyond the boundaries of both marine reserves at the end of 2020. This involved using a Smith-McIntyre grab taking a total of 78 0.1 m^2 from both reserves which were later sorted. More information about the fieldwork process can be found in the Appendix. From this study, we found that 10 of the 21 species found in the 20 muddy sites (Figure 9) offshore from CROP were not found in shallower waters inside this reserve, and likewise 19 of the 25 species found at 17 muddy sand sites offshore from Tāwharanui were not found within this reserve (Figure 9). These species are also highly vulnerable to the impacts of dredging and bottom trawling, from which they are currently unprotected (Thrush and Dayton 2002). Extension of both reserves to encompass these important deep mud habitats would be consistent with providing protection to habitats of distinctive quality and uniqueness as stated in the Marine Reserves Act 1971.

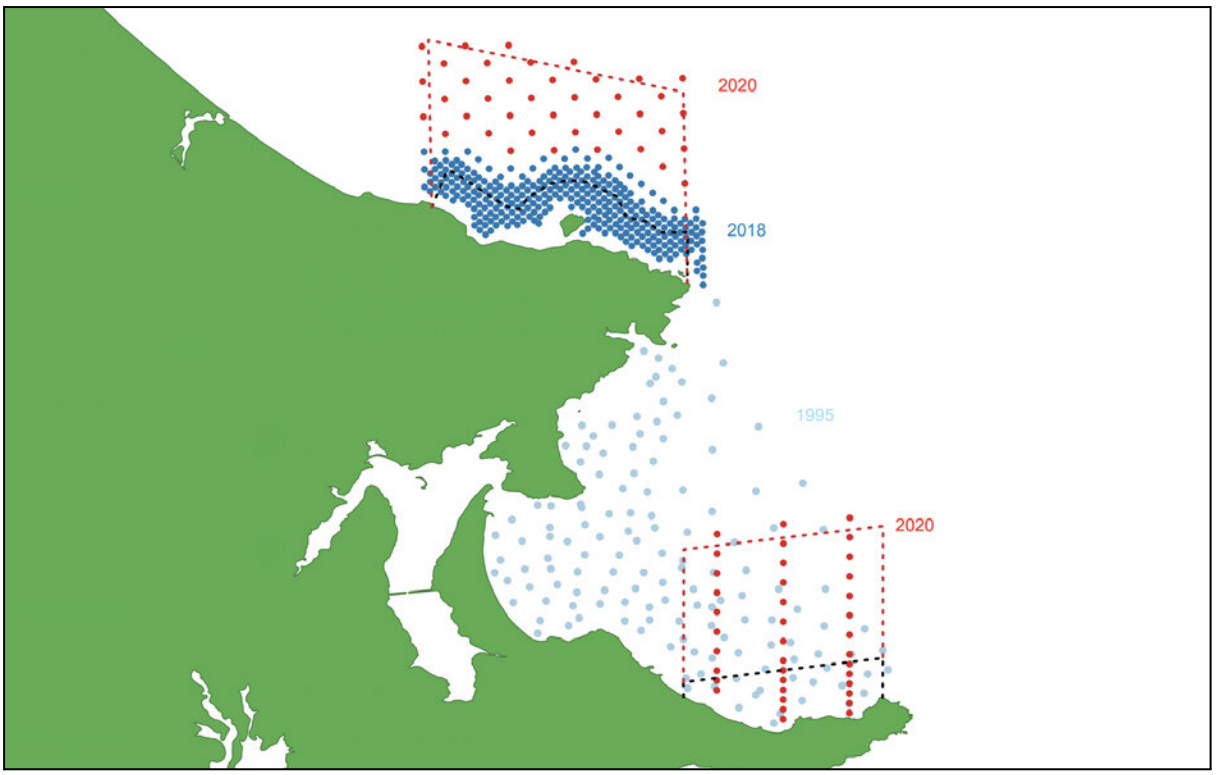


Figure 8. Map showing soft sediment sample sites from 1995-2020 at both Tāwharanui and Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserves. Black dotted lines represent the current boundary of each reserve and the red dotted line represents the proposed extensions. Each dot represents one sample site, with light blue, dark blue and red representing sampling conducted in 1995, 2018 and 2020 respectively (Source: Richard Taylor).

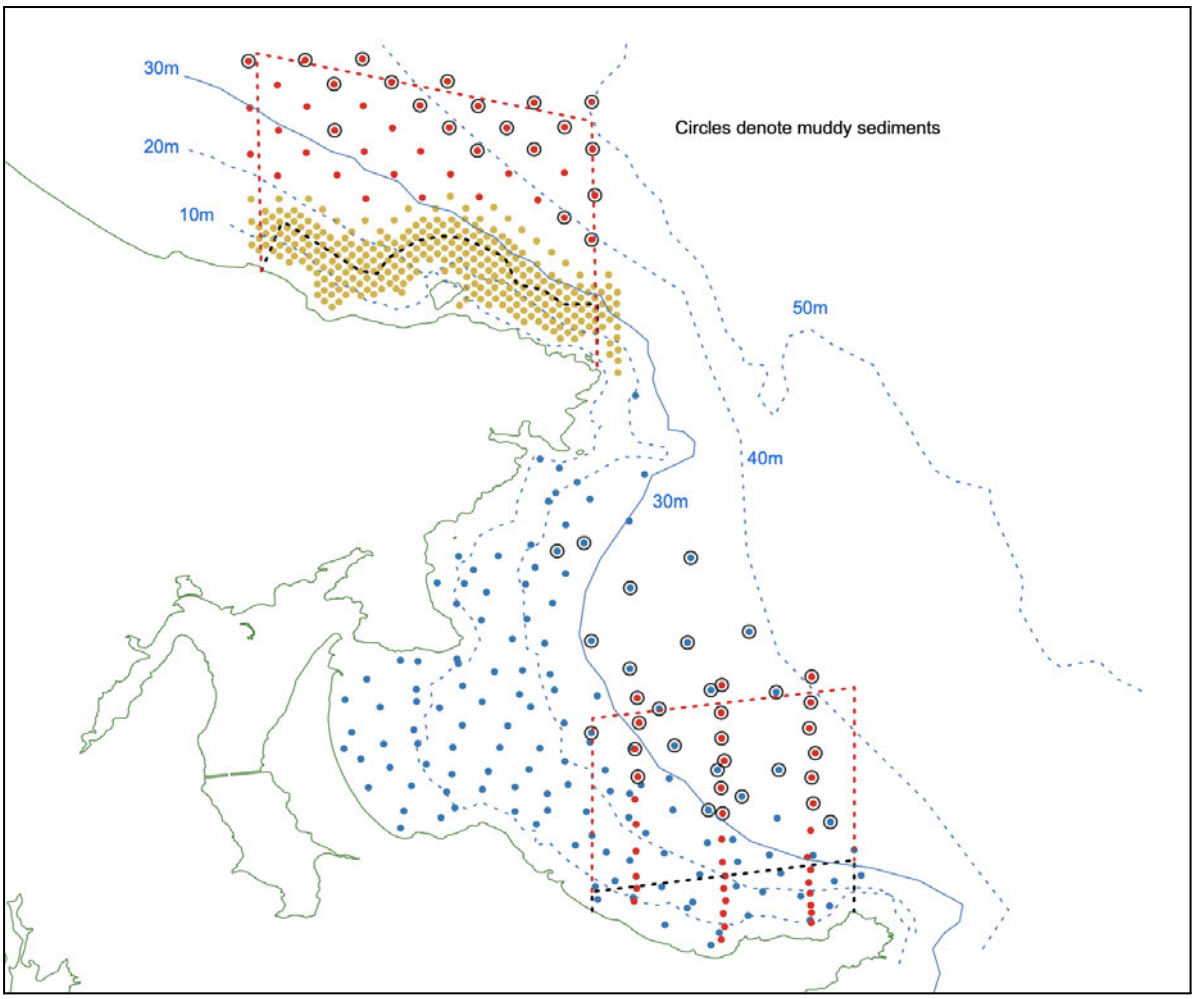


Figure 9. Map identifying the muddy sampling sites in deeper water as a subset of all soft sediment sample sites from 1995-2020 at both Tāwharanui and Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserves. Black dotted line represents the current boundary of each reserve and the red dotted line represents the possible boundary extensions to include deep soft sediment habitats, and offshore aggregation areas for red rock lobsters. Yellow, blue and red dots represent sample sites in 1995, 2018 and 2020 respectively. The sites with deep muddy sediments have dots circled. (Source: Richard Taylor).

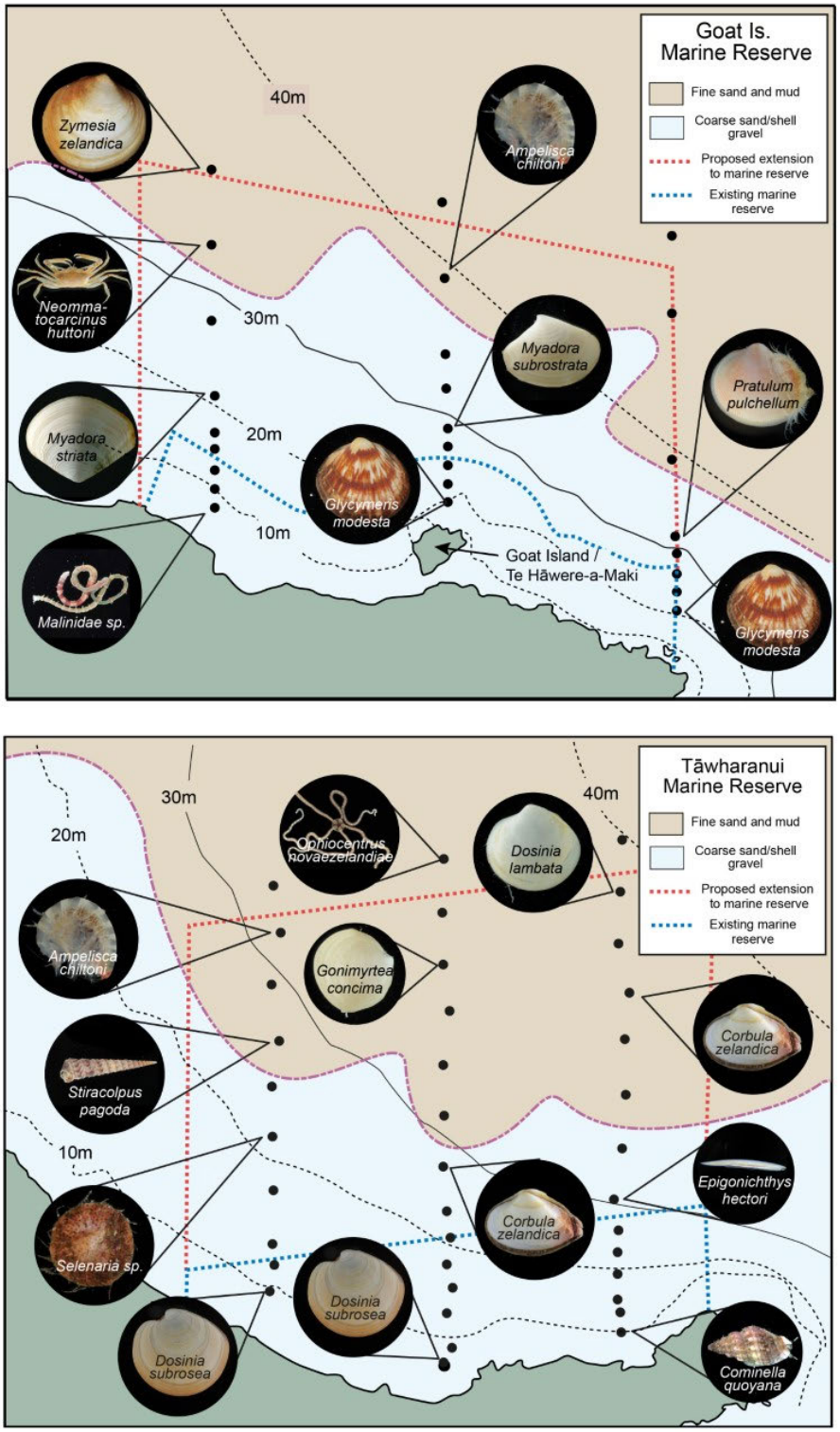


Figure 10. Diagram indicating the most abundant species at a selection of sample sites along three transects at Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve (above) and Tāwharanui Marine Reserve (below). Other important features of the diagram to note is the change in habitat type in relation to species diversity and current and proposed boundaries (Source: diagram created by Vivian Ward and species photos provided by Richard Taylor).

Figure 11. We found many other interesting species during our sampling, especially in the deeper sediments. From left to right, top to bottom: the nut crab *Bellidilia cheesmanii* was found in deep muddy sand at CROP between 43 and 50 m and coarse sand at 25 m depth in Tawharanui. The mantis shrimp *Heterosquilla koning* was found in sand at 31.8 m depth and 36.6 m in muddy sand at Tawharanui. The priapulid *Priapulopsis australis* was found at 50 m in muddy sand at CROP. The spiny murex *Poirieria zelandica* was found in CROP also in muddy sand at 50 m (photos by Richard Taylor).

4. The Extension of Current Boundaries

4.1. Proposed Extensions

Drawing on this knowledge, the organisation Seachange proposes through its marine spatial plan that CROP marine reserve be extended to 3.8 km offshore (see figure 12; Seachange 2017). Currently, the boundary exists 800 m offshore. They justify this to account for the current cross boundary movements of keystone species such as lobster in particular (Seachange 2017). It is recognised that this will not only better protect keystone species but preserve vital habitats and the completeness of the wider ecosystem (Seachange 2017). There is also evidence to suggest that there would be benefit in extending Tāwharanui Marine Reserve, although no formal recommendation has been made as of yet.

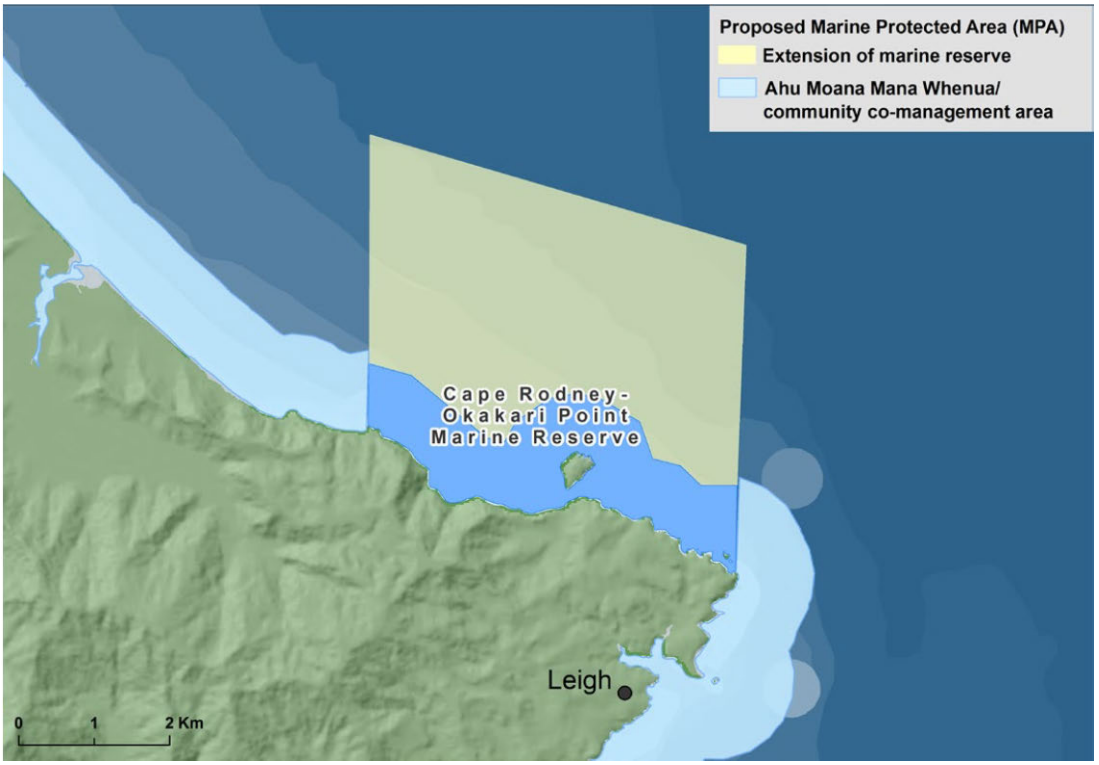


Figure 12. Map showing the 3km proposed offshore extension of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point marine reserve (Seachange 2017).

4.2. Management Approach

It has been demonstrated in national and international contexts alike that the management approach applied to a marine reserve has a profound effect on the conservation of keystone predators (Friedlander et al 2003; Babcock 2013). The Hauraki Gulf Forum creates 'State of our Gulf' reports which scientifically outline calls to action (Seachange 2017; Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). With this information, the organisation Seachange developed a marine spatial plan to provide a framework and recommendations for the appropriate management of the Hauraki Gulf and the marine protected areas within it. This plan was created in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council (Seachange 2017). Seachange is a community process that supports the recommendation to extend many marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf, including CROP Marine Reserve. Taking an inclusive, stakeholder led approach has been shown to increase compliance and ownership of the management and long term conservation process (Friedlander et al 2003). Furthermore, education such as that provided by the Discovery Centre at Goat Island is an effective tool to inspire community engagement (Babcock et al 2013). In turn, community engagement drives progress (Friedlander et al 2003). Amalgamating conservation goals and efforts through the formation of this alliance marks an improvement in the management approach of the Hauraki Gulf. Previously, this environment has suffered a tragedy of the commons with many different agencies working with different strategies attempting to address overfishing, pollution and other growing concerns in the wider Gulf (Jacquet et al 2013; Seachange 2017; Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). It is well known in the literature that effective conservation and management of protected areas relies on collaborative and inclusive planning that results in timely but practical action (Seachange 2017). Working alongside indigenous groups such as

local iwi is vitally important as they bring different perspectives and ancestral knowledge (Babcock 2013; Dodson 2014). The success of this approach has been demonstrated within the current boundaries of CROP and Tāwharanui marine reserves and the associated ecological restoration that has taken place (Babcock 2013). CROP Marine Reserve and the wealth of visitors it attracts generates $12.5 million per year to the local economy of Leigh (Auckland Council 2012). By extending CROP and nearby Tāwharanui marine reserves to include important deep soft-sediment habitats, these benefits could only be expected to amplify.

4.3. Reserve Design

Along with active stakeholder collaboration, good spatial planning is also critical (Le Port et al 2012; Babcock 2013). It is well documented in international literature that marine reserves are most successful when their boundaries are carefully placed to consider keystone predators, their prey and habitat connectivity as has been reinforced in this report (Friedlander et al 2003; Babcock 2013). The success of a marine reserve in this sense describes the restoration of the natural balance of ecosystem functioning and integrity in the locality of the reserve.

The shape of a marine reserve should be based upon sound scientific evidence that supports the preservation of complete habitats as reflected by the behaviour and movement of resident species (Kramer and Chapman 1999; Friedlander et al 2003; Goñi et al 2008; McLeod et al 2009; Babcock 2013; Green et al 2014; Munguia-Vega et al 2018). For example, Seachange based its recommendation to extend the current CROP boundaries from 800 m to 3.8 km offshore partly on an reef that exists outside the current boundaries but is an important aggregation site for red rock lobsters (Seachange 2017). From previous research, it was known that these reefs directly correlate with the movement of species like red rock lobster and snapper across the reserve boundaries (Freeman et al 2009; Babcock 2013). Following this trajectory, it would be expected that if boundaries are extended to include these areas and the equally important soft-sediment habitats that surround them, this movement will cease and conservation of these species across all life stages will be more effective (Freeman et al 2009; Seachange 2017). Therefore, maintaining connectivity of important habitats is regarded internationally as a key part of successful marine reserve design (Friedlander et al 2003; McLeod et al 2009; Green et al 2014; Munguia-Vega et al 2018). There is less evidence to suggest that keystone predators travel across longshore boundaries and therefore, CROP and Tāwharanui marine reserves are proposed to only be extended offshore. Adjusting offshore boundaries allows the protection of a gradient and diversity of habitats representative of the complete ecosystem and the distinctive creatures that live there (Friedlander et al 2003; McLeod et al 2009; Green et al 2014; Munguia-Vega et al 2018). It has also been suggested that marine reserves are best configured with straight boundaries that are easily defined in a navigational sense to avoid confusion and assist enforcement (Friedlander et al 2003). The size of marine reserves are an equally important factor in their success; too small and they do not protect species effectively, but too large and this may limit resources that can be focussed to more vulnerable areas (Friedlander et al 2003; Babcock 2013). There is also other evidence to suggest that larvae are produced in higher numbers within larger reserves (Palumbi 2004; Green et al 2014). Although, this may be attributed to greater habitat connectivity rather than reserve size. Green et al (2014) defines small reserves as approximately 0.5-1 km across and large reserves as 5-20 km across. However, the ideal size of a

marine reserve varies depending on the biological context of the locality (Friedlander et al 2003; Munguia-Vega et al 2018). This reiterates the importance of research and understanding the biology and movements of species in marine reserve configuration.

The design of a marine reserve also depends on the context of the wider locality. Intense fishing pressure on keystone predators at the boundaries of marine reserves controls species abundance and wider ecological functioning inside the reserve (Walters et al 2007; Goñi et al 2008; Babcock 2013). This is especially relevant to small reserves like CROP, Tāwharanui and many others around the world that are increasingly vulnerable in this way (Kramer and Chapman 1999; Green et al 2014). In these contexts, marine reserve boundaries should be designed in shapes that have edges as short as possible, such as circles or squares rather than rectangles (McLeod et al 2009). Due to their direct impact, fisheries outside the reserve should also be monitored closely (Walters et al 2007; Goñi et al 2008; Babcock 2013). Some argue that managing fisheries outside reserves is even more important than their design (Walters et al 2007). With this in mind, marine reserve management should be integrated with fisheries management of the wider locality (Walters et al 2007; Goñi et al 2008; Babcock 2013, Green et al 2014). Finally, marine reserves should be permanent to ensure their long term success (Munguia-Vega et al 2018). However, the future will demand sustained innovative and collaborative thinking to ensure that marine reserves can stand the test of time; even with the unprecedented effects of climate change and subsequent ecological impacts (Munguia-Vega et al 2018).

5. Concluding Statement

In conclusion, there is a strong argument for the extension of the Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves. By including important deep soft-sediment habitats offshore, the abundance of vital keystone predators, particularly lobster, will greatly improve, benefitting both the local marine ecosystem and people alike.

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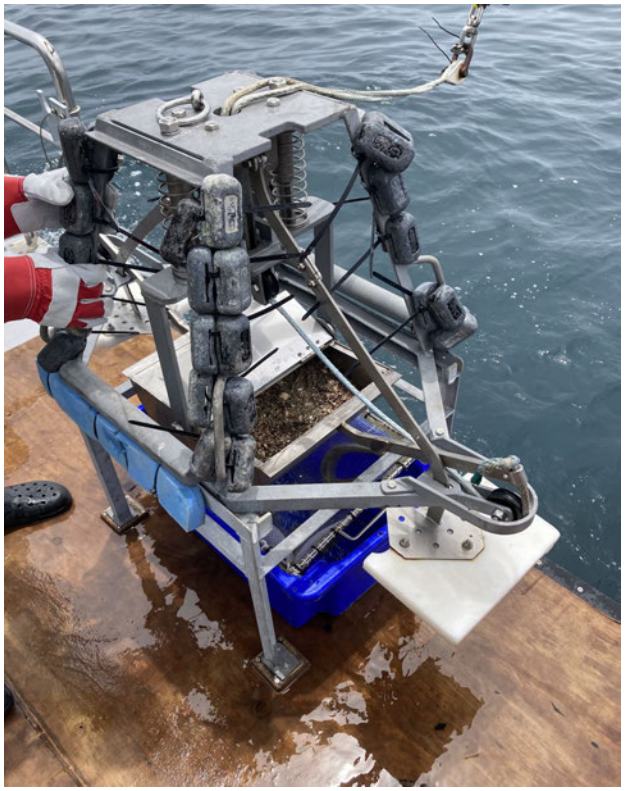
Appendix: Images

Caption: all sample sites were laid out in transects on a global positioning system in the navigational unit of the research vessel *Hawere* in advance.

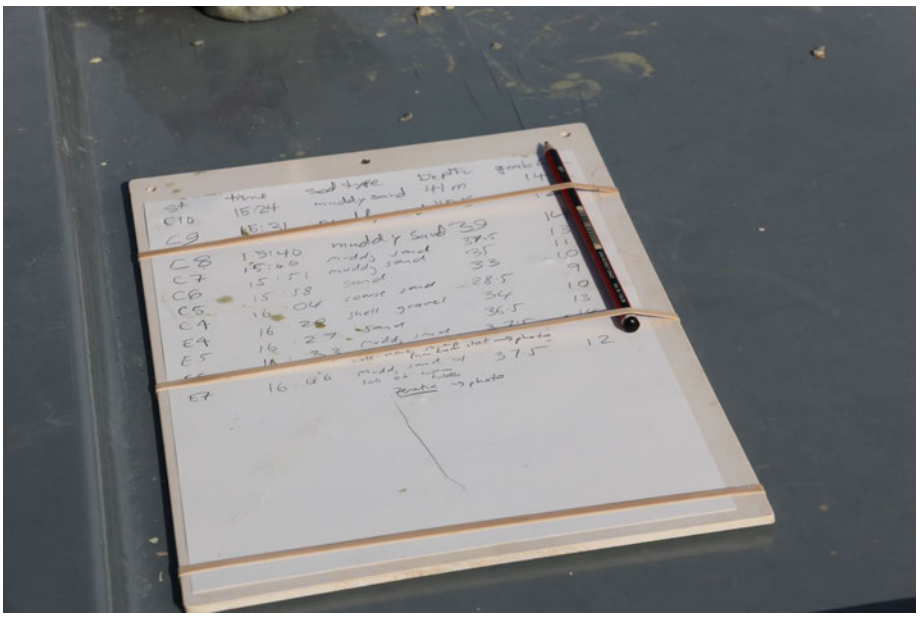
Caption: The grab had to be winched over the side with the help of people to guide it.



Caption: On return to the surface, the grab brought with it sediment and organisms from the seafloor.

Caption: The fullness of the grab depended on the sediment type, which could vary quite a lot. This is an example of shell gravel.

Caption: The sample then had to be sieved through a 4 mm mesh, only leaving sediment and creatures of a certain size range.



Caption: Data was recorded in the field. This included noting the sample location, time, sediment type, depth, grab fullness and any unusual things that were noticed.

Caption: A small sediment sample was taken from each grab and the rest of each sample was put into a large snaplock bag for processing later.

Caption: Many interesting creatures were brought up from the depths. This is a *Neommatocarcinus huttoni,* commonly known as a policeman crab.

Caption: Later on, organisms were separated from the sediment of each sample. Isopropyl alcohol was then added to preserve specimens.

Caption: Finally, species were then identified and recorded in Excel for use in this report.