

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 4:21 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Help revitalise the Hauraki Gulf submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Hello

The proposal is heavy handed and not based on sound research with regard to actual fish species biomass in the gulf and the subsequent relationship between adverse effects, commercial fishing and recreational fishing. Commercial fishing should be closed in the gulf. Recreational fishing contributes a very small percentage of damage to the ecosystems, yet hundreds of thousands of people will be adversely affected if the changes proceed as notified. We have seen stupid decision making in the Bay of Plenty, through closure of recreational fishing grounds leading to increased fishing pressure on open areas. Surely no one actually thinks that is a good idea?

Recreational fishing opportunities should be retained as current.

Creating additional reserve areas simply reduces available fishing areas and increases pressure on those areas. Limiting supply of fishable areas whilst an ever increasing demand for recreational fishing is not good science. Protected areas and high protected areas should apply to commercial fishing but not to recreational fishing.

Make a start by applying the restrictions to commercial fishing, where most of the damage occurs from, and then robustly monitor progress.

Regards,  
s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 5:48 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Seachange submission for the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Seachange DOC proposal 27 10 22 (002).docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

Please attached my submission on behalf of my charter boat operation, 2xs Charters owned by Balmain Boating Services, z pier Westhaven, and other members of the Z pier fleet. Their names and email addresses are at the bottom of the submission . I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt

Yours sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)  
Director  
Balmain Boating Services

Seachange  
Department of Conservation  
[Seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>) or the Motukawao Group (30 km<sup>2</sup>) 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 Areas 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).*

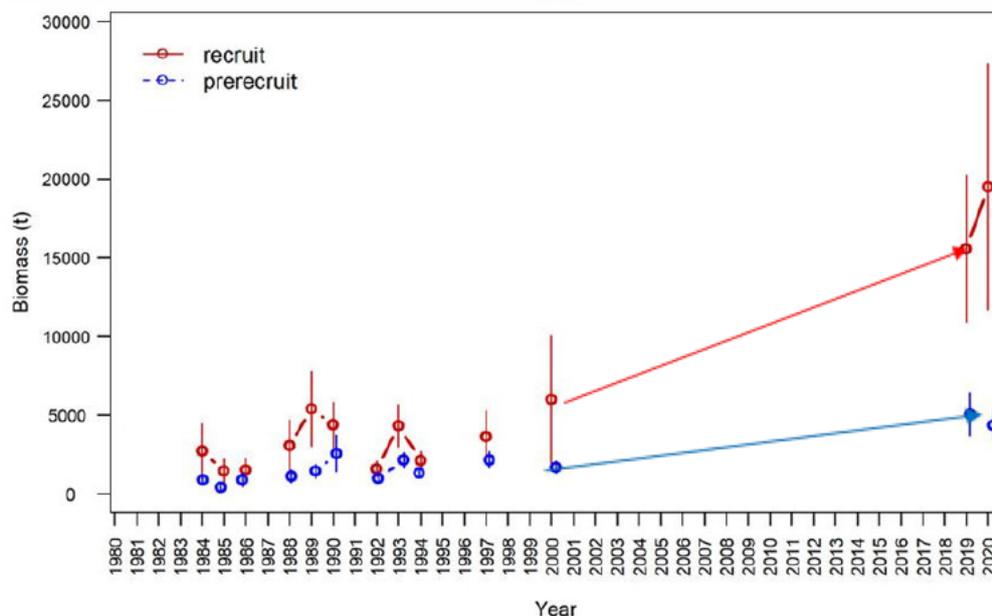
Nor is there any data or observations that set the benchmark on how the establishment of the specific HPA's will improve the pre-HPA ecosystems around these areas.

**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

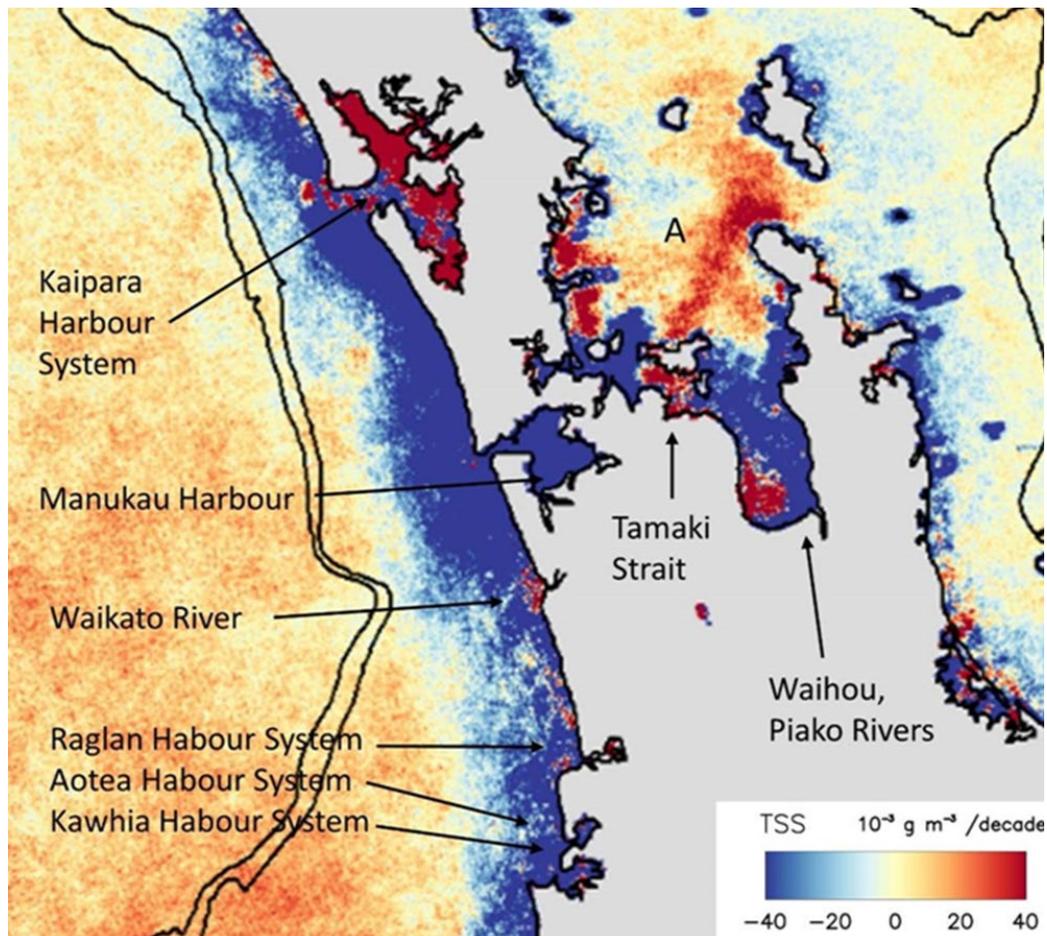


## HPA's are not strategically aligned to solving the biggest future threat to the Gulf, particularly the inner Gulf

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. (See map of spatial trends in sedimentation of the Hauraki Gulf (Niwa 2022))



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 we oppose the creation of these HPA's for the following reasons:

- It 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.
- It will not solve the fundamental problems facing the health of the Hauraki Gulf, particularly the inner part of the Gulf ,which are now essentially land use -sediment based.
- It will reduce people on modest budgets and small boats to catch fish for themselves and their whanau

However, we understand that this is only a preliminary phase in the development of new legislation to help protect and enhance the ecosystem of the Hauraki gulf for all to enjoy. We look forward to being part of those vital conversations.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 5:51 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Proposed Extension of the Te Whanganui Marine Reserve  
**Attachments:** Submission on the Proposed Extension of the Te Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve.doc

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

H,

Please find attached submission

Kind Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

## Submission on Te Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve Extension

Submitter s 9 (2)(a)  
Address s 9 (2)(a)  
Email s 9 (2)(a)

I do not support the proposal as set out in Figure 29 on page 66.

I would support the proposal as set out in Figure 30 on page 68 if the extension to the southern boundary was not included. In other words the southern boundary of the existing Marine Reserve should be retained as is.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- 1) When the existing Marine Reserve was created, the southern boundary was established by negotiation between DOC and the local Hahei residents. At that time these negotiations concluded that the agreed boundary took into account the needs and wishes of all parties. What has changed?
- 2) In my opinion moving the southern boundary would only have a small gain for the Marine Reserve at the expense of a large loss of resource for all residents and casual users of the beach.
- 3) In particular residents and casual users would lose the right to fish or collect shellfish on approximately half of the beach.
- 4) If the southern boundary was moved approximately 800m along Hahei beach it would severely impact the residents who occupy the north/western part of Hahei.
- 5) North western residents would be effectively banned from fishing off the beach and from collecting shellfish. This would particularly apply to young children trying to catch a sprat off the beach.
- 6) The western side of Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) is a very special area of interest to all Hahei residents as it is the only safe area where small boat owners can fish or dive during periods on inclement weather. Inclusion of this area in the Marine Reserve would encourage small boat owners to attempt to fish or dive outside (east of) Mahurangi Island at all times and in my opinion this would inevitably lead to a tragedy of some sort.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 6:01 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals Submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Sirs and Madams

I wish to provide feedback on the Government's Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals as a private citizen.

My submission is that the plan does not go far enough to protect the environment in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. I strongly object to the environmentally damaging practices of bottom trawling and sand mining in **any** part of the Marine Park whatsoever. These would have been ignored in the 80's, but I don't accept that they should be allowed today with our improved environmental awareness and understanding of the damage they cause.

I ask that the proposals be reconsidered, and extended to either ban or strictly limit bottom trawling and sand mining within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Yours faithfully

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 6:05 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Revitalising the Gulf  
**Attachments:** Submission on Revitalising the Gulf, s 9 (2)(a) pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Ka ora,  
Please find attached my submission in response to the Revitalising the Gulf proposed protection zones document.

Thanks kindly,

s 9 (2)(a) \*

Operations Chef

**GOOD SPIRITS**  
*Hospitality*



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**Good People  
Good Times  
Good Spirits**

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

[Goodspiritshospitality.co.nz](http://Goodspiritshospitality.co.nz)



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s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 9 (2)(a)

To whom it may concern,

This document is a personal submission in response to the Revitalising the Gulf proposed protection zones document.

I support the proposed protection zones as set out in the discussion document, most notably the High Protection Areas surrounding existing nature reserves and restoration areas such as the Noises, Hauturu and Motutapu.

The intense pressure from commercial and recreational fisheries onto the flora and fauna within this region is well documented, as is the positive impacts that arise from areas of marine protection.

I personally have a long background of recreational fishing, which has always been a big part of my life. At 30 years old I began diving, something I had not done for many years, and the difference I saw in the marine life compared to when I was younger was frankly horrifying. The kelp forests of my memories were now kina barrens. Since then, I have given up fishing and have also stopped consuming kai moana.

I have also spent time volunteering for a native bird recovery centre on Waiheke Island and during my time there I buried far too many seabirds that had come to us starving, damaged and unable to recover. Death is a part of life but not naturally at the volume we saw consistently.

The implementation of the marine protection zones is necessary to slow down, and even support the recovery of, this formerly biodiverse region, protecting the Hauraki for future generations.

Sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 6:07 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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 name is s 9 (2)(a) I am a marine scientist, diver and work for Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust surveying the Maitai Bay Rahui, and I am the Northland Coordinator for Experiencing Marine Reserves. I am writing IN SUPPORT of the proposed marine reserves and marine zones in the Hauraki Gulf.

I grew up in central Auckland living right on the gulf. I use to thoroughly looked forward to weekend when we would go up to Leigh to visit goat island marine reserve and was blown away by my first trip to the Poor Knights Islands. Not every Aucklander is this lucky to be able to travel to these far away places. Imagine if they had a marine area as beautiful right on their door step? I believe it is their right.

I do not condemn fishing, either recreationally or commercially. But I believe the way we approach fishing needs to change. Instead of taking for granted we can fish nearly everywhere and need to plead for a specific places to be protected – I think adding more protection and leaving a few places to be fished will prove more beneficial to everyone. What DOC are proposing, the 19 new marine protection zones would be a huge step towards this more sustainable way of looking at our marine environment.

The rahui I have been working on in Maitai Bay, a complete no take, has only been in place for 5 years and already the changes are substantial and have been a huge inspiration to the communities who have been involved. Before it was protected, EMR used to bring school groups to Maitai Bay as their local beach to see what their coast looked like – back then it was kina barren and few fish. They would then be bussed down to Goat Island to see what a marine reserve looked like. Today we are able to take them to Maitai Bay to celebrate what their coast should look like.

This is just one of many examples of the now well known and document benefits marine reserves serve both ecologically and socially to community. On land 30% of New Zealand is protected to some capacity, in the ocean only 0.04% is protected. 80% of New Zealands biodiversity is in the ocean but we are at risk of losing some. Especially in the Hauraki Gulf due to its proximity to Auckland City. I believe further protection such as being suggested in this proposal is critically important and will be heavily supported by New Zealanders.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 6:29 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Conservation Hauraki Gulf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I have been sailing in the Hauraki Gulf for many years. Recently, we have noticed how dead and vacuous this area is of sea life. It is a travesty and deeply upsets us.

We would like to voice our opinion to please eliminate all sea dredging everywhere, not just in the Hauraki Gulf, but around all of New Zealand's magnificent seashores. It's a barbaric practice which we understand has been banned in many countries.

We also are saddened that sand mining practices are not monitored sufficiently and the environmental damage is potentially irreparable.

Regards,

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

Sent from my iPad

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 6:31 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** delayne.salthouse06@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

I am making this submission on behalf of the Wakatere Boating Club which is based at Narrow Neck on Auckland's North Shore. The Gulf is our playground. The club has over 400 members all of whom are active, or are from families who are active, in, on and around the Gulf. We firmly believe that a healthy Ocean is essential to a high quality of life generally, and the opportunity to start with making local changes is a really important first step. We are also very aware that we are simply the custodians and guardians of this amazing resource, and that future generations should have the opportunity to enjoy the Gulf in the best possible state. Not as a collapsed ecosystem.

Accordingly we 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.

To restore the Gulf to the quality it has previously comprised requires that the full ecosystem of the Gulf is restored. 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.

Goat Island and the Poor Knights are both amazing examples of what can be achieved within a marine protection zone. Both are fantastically abundant in their marine life. 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.

The Government must act with urgency to set in place all proposed 19 protection zones in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. 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.

This package should however just be the start.

This submission represents the views of the committee of the Wakatere Boating Club.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

(ex Commodore and committee member of s 9 (2)(a)

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Please think of the environment before printing this email.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 8:39 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on proposed Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Zones  
**Attachments:** Marine Protection Areas.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

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s 9 (2)(a)

Title

Company

28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Te Ra Charters

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

My name is **s 9 (2)(a)** Owner Operator of a Charter Boat in Whangamata, I run fishing tours within the proposed Marine Protection Areas of Slipper and Aldermans islands

I have not been approached for comment despite our company operating in these areas for the last 33 years.

I am deeply concerned of the negative impact that the proposed restrictions will have on my clients and the business. The proposed Marine Protection Areas will take out the near port sheltered areas of Slipper Island and the Aldermans, greatly reducing my ability to run safe and comfortable trips for my clients negatively effecting the amount of people enjoying their time on the water and the companies overall turnover.

There has been no hard conversations of compensation or concession around me and my family's business which is very concerning.

Having a large capacity charter fishing boat, I do not target small resedintal groups of fish but larger seasonal migrations of coastal pelagic fish e.g., Crayfish, Snapper, Terakihi, Trevally and Kingfish. This has shown me that the fish will come in and out of Marine Protection Areas in large volumes and unless the overall pressure is reduced (killing less) the fish will still be over caught.

I am also very concerned of the suggestion that Maori will still be able to harvest from these areas with impunity and I think it is devisive at the best and racist in the extreme. I certainly would not treat local Iwi or a New Zealander any different on my boat regardless of ethincity, privilege or any personal orientation and are shocked that one group would be treated differently regarding marine access.

I realize that this is to promote the formation of Marine Protection Areas as they simply would not happen without Iwi support. This is a step too far in my mind.

I would suggest if you really wanted to increase the abundance in the Hauraki Gulf and sink a lot more carbon at the same time, that the fodder fish are the key and your scope should include the whole of area one.

Reducing the catch of the least valued of the fish could bring large changes about more quickly. I talk of the vast schools of Mackerel, Tuna, Trevally, Barracuda, Kahawai etc, that have been scooped out with little regulation. The offspring of these eat the phyto plankton producing food for the more sort after fish and birdlife and the adult fodder fish producing nutrient for the phyto plankton. Abundance promoting abundance.

Marine Protection Areas do not strike at the heart of depletion.

If people are engaged in the Marine environment they are much more likely to support sustainability, if they are shut out of areas then what relevance to them is left?

I do not support the proposed MPAs around slipper and the alderman islands in its current form.

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

**Owner Operator  
Te Ra Charters**

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 8:43 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** [Inappropriate words used on Mahu Gmail] Revitalise the Hauraki Gulf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Minister Parker and Minister Williams

I am 13 years old, a passionate snorkeler, and I love exploring the underwater environments of the Hauraki Gulf. My family and I regularly spend our weekends snorkelling on the reefs around the Hauraki Gulf. I really enjoy snorkelling at Goat Island, Tawharanui, the Mokohinau Islands, Huaturu, Great Barrier and the Nosies.

I love snorkelling in the Goat Island marine reserve because there are plenty of big snapper, other fish, crayfish hidden in every crack and lots of kelp! I have noticed a lack of crayfish and big predator fish, like snapper, kahawia and kingfish, and a lot of kina barrens, pretty much everywhere else.

Only 6% of the Hauraki Gulf is protected from fishing and I would like to see much more protected like Goat Island. Putting in more marine protected areas and making the current ones bigger will help restore the Hauraki Gulf and protect important species from being overfished.

Therefore, **please accept this email as my submission supporting all of the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.**

Yours sincerely.

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



## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:48 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hahei Reserve extension.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a) a 50 year s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a) and an avid Scuba Diver and Fisherman..

I totally support your recommendations to enlarge the Reserve as we have all enjoyed the effects of the current reserve and the spill over effects from the increased breeding of all species.

My only concern is that regarding the exercising of Dogs down the beach and if that is preserved then I accept the proposal wholeheartedly.

I worry that a mid beach line will be difficult for all concerned and if the boundary was to be extended to include the Wigmore Passage Point then that would not only make more sense but also pick up and include some very important breeding ground reefs and rock formations .

Our locals arguments are all so hollow and short sighted that they fail to see the huge benefits that will follow any extension of the reserve and provided we can all continue to launch boats from the beach they and their Children and Grandchildren will be better off in every respect.

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 9:15 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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 your submission here

Ban all sand mining

Ban bottom trawling

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 9:17 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Submission for proposed changes..

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Name - s 9 (2)(a)

My submission represents my whanau who have been here for generations, this view represents our whanau. We want to stop sea bed mining and bottom trawling of the Hauraki Gulf. This is not sustainable or sensible.

How can these practices be good for the health of the gulf? Get with the changes we need to make to protect our assets.

The health of the gulf is an amazing asset to Aotearoa and should be protected as much as possible.

Contact details;

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 9:34 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki gulf submissions  
**Attachments:** Hauraki gulf submission.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Hauraki gulf submission

Please see attached document.

Sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

## Hauraki Gulf Submission

The Hauraki Gulf is under threat from pollution, commercial fishing, recreational fishing and plastic. We need more marine protection.

We need to lock up more marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf.

We need to work out ways to get kelp back in

We need a 10 year moratorium on all fishing in the gulf, including cray potting.

We need to prohibit aquaculture in the Gulf.

We need to manage wastewater discharge and stormwater runoff.

We need to end all deep sea mining.

Sincerely

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 9:40 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Enough is enough

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

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### **Submission regarding the Department of Conservations document; Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals**

I/we are making this submission as (a) concerned commercial rock lobster fisher in the CRA 2 quota management area. I/we/my family will be severely/adversely impacted by the proposal to create the HPAs and no bottom contact areas.

These areas are completely out of proportion and stupidly thought out ideas of making our ocean more plentiful .

You DO NOT make an area more plentiful by placing massive restrictions on grounds and concentrating efforts on what's left !

The reef closures out off Tauranga are already proving to do exactly this but no one's listening to concerns over that . The high protection areas in the proposed areas are absolutely ridiculously large let alone thought out with no actual facts of what's going on out there and who it's used by and what for or if it actually needs some kind of protection .

## **What do the Alderman islands have to do with the Hauraki Gulf !**

There are far better ways to manage an area " if it has some issues" than close it off and force efforts on what's left !

If this goes ahead it will ruin many peoples livelihoods and way of life causing mental harm and financial strain on dozens if not hundreds of families in BOP and Auckland area but this is just a piece of the green radical agenda of Forrest and Bird have and is starting to show .

Yours Sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

FV NORA

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 9:51 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals feedback

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

*1. I 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. I 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. I 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.*

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 10:11 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Marine protection area proposal

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

I support the Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals package to establish 19 new marine protection areas to restore Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi.

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.

The Government must act with urgency to set in place all proposed 19 protection zones in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. 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.

Ngā mihi,

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 10:28 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Re: REVITALISING THE GULF STAGE 1  
**Attachments:** Sea Change letter.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia Ora Sea Change Team,  
Attached is my submission letter for your consideration.  
Thank you very much.

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

On Thu, 27 Oct 2022 at 16:41, Sea Change <[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora s 9 (2)(a)

Thank you for your question. Land-based fishing into the ocean (i.e., surfcasting etc.) will be prohibited in these protection areas. This proposal does not impact rivers or lakes in the area, so if you are referring to a non-ocean body of water then that is not impacted.

Hope that helped clear things up for you. We welcome your submission.

Ngā manaakitanga,

**The Sea Change Team**

Te Papa Atawhai me Te Tini o Tangaroa

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/revitalise-the-gulf>



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**From:** Peter Choi **s 9 (2)(a)**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 4:11 pm  
**To:** Sea Change <[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** REVITALISING THE GULF STAGE 1

Hi there,

I had a question regarding this proposal.

Looking at the document, proposed new areas (table 3 and figure 1 pg 13, 14), area 10a is labelled as "Kawau Bay" as a High Protection Area.

Does this mean **land-based** recreational fishing in areas in 10a (eg. land-based fishing from Scandrett regional park) would be prohibited? Or does this only apply to fishing on the sea on boats.

Clarification would be appreciated and enable me to submit a more informed feedback on the proposal.

Kind regards,

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

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Dear Sea Change proposal Team,

I have been a land-based recreational fisherman over 20 years and have sustainably fished in many areas including area **10a** in Sea Change Proposals document - more specifically along the coast line of Scandrett regional park.

I am against converting the Kawau Bay area 10a as a High Protection Area which would prohibit any sort of land-based fishing in this area..

Scandrett regional park has been a popular destination for land-based recreational fishermen. It is a place where you can take your family for a picnic, enjoy fishing with the kids and spend quality outdoors time with your family. I believe by restricting/prohibiting land-based fishing from this area would not help in addressing the intended issues outlined in the Sea Change Proposals document. There are couple of reasons for this as outlined below:

As mentioned in the p89 of Sea Change Proposals document, according to Chiaroni et al. (2008), the major threats to the Kawau Bay marine biodiversity are:

“• Trampling of intertidal rock platform communities.

- Anchor and shellfish dredging damage to diverse epifaunal assemblages, particularly sponge gardens and horse mussel beds.

- Recreational extraction both in the intertidal and subtidal areas potentially disrupting community structure and ecological processes by removing critical species.

- Catchment development increasing nutrient and stormwater contaminant runoff. As well as clogging the gills of and smothering benthic organisms, silt and mud permanently change the species composition of benthic assemblages by infilling coarser sediments. This is thought to be a contributing factor in the disappearance of extensive horse mussel beds from parts of Kawau Bay, Martins Bay and throughout Mahurangi Harbour.”

By restricting land-based recreational fishermen from fishing, none of these major threats listed above will be helped or addressed in any way. Land-based fishing does not damage the seabed with anchor or shellfish dredging. Trampling of intertidal rock platform communities would not be addressed as other users of the regional park will continue to contribute to this. Land-based fishing is one of the most sustainable and eco-friendly way of catching fish for the family. If Recreational extraction is a problem, maybe set specific species bans along the areas which are in danger or declining (something like what Omaha beach is doing).

According to page 95 of Sea Change Proposals document, by converting this 10a area to High protection area, we would achieve “From recreational fishing number of stationary boats actively fishing) and landed snapper and kahawai catch within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park indicates that 1.97% of recreational fishing effort and 1.58% and 1.51% of snapper and kahawai landed catch would be displaced, respectively.”

This figure only represents the amount displaced from recreational fishing from the boats and no data from land-based fishermen have been accounted for. The amount of fish caught from land-based fishing would be far less in numbers and will have minimal impact on fish population.

Land-based fishermen would have limited impact on the number of fish caught therefore prove minimal effect towards the ecosystem of this area.

I would recommend to allow land-based recreational fishing to be continued in such areas which would have minimal impact towards the ecosystem of Kawau Bays area where it has been a valuable leisure activity for many kiwi families for generations.

Yours sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 10:34 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear All,

I wish to submit on the Revitalising the Gulf proposal. I am an Auckland-based ocean swimmer and as such have a passion for the wellbeing of our marine environment. Sadly, the state of the Gulf is appalling and requires urgent action. The Sea Change Plan is an important and necessary step in the right direction and I strongly welcome it.

However, I believe there are areas where the plan can be strengthened. I therefore submit as following:

- 1) There should be a complete ban on all destructive fishing methods within the Marine Park. The use of bottom trawling in particular has no place in a sustainable fisheries and the associated environmental devastation is not justifiable by the minimal commercial benefit.
- 2) There should be stronger restrictions on recreational fishing. In particular, permitted catch should be reduced and fully protected areas expanded (refer point 3). Current catch limits are too high and promote an attitude of catching for the freezer, not as feed. With about half of all take in the Marine Park attributable to recreational fishing current catch limits are simply not sustainable. While some interest groups for the recreational fishing sector seek to present a position of no restrictions, it is my personal observation on relevant social media forums and from conversations with recreational fishermen / women that there is an increasing preparedness to restrict take in favour of protecting the Gulf. The claim that the majority of recreational fishermen/women object to greater protection is false and not backed by a recent Horizon Poll.
- 3) The HPA's account for only 6% of the Marine Park. While other forms of protection exist across the Marine Park HPA's should be extended to include adjoining areas of significant importance. This applies to the entire area surround Hauturu/Little Barrier , Tiritiri Matangi and the Mokohinau. The larger these areas are, the bigger the positive effects on biodiversity not only within the HPA, but in the surrounding areas. High levels of protection have proven to be most effective. The overall global ambition of protecting at least 30% of our oceans should be reflected in this Hauraki Gulf.

Once more, I commend the Sea Change Plan for the significant uplift to the protection of the Hauraki Gulf. However, given the state it is in I submit that bolder action is needed and the ambition of the Plan must therefore be raised as set out above. I believe there is strong public backing for more ambition and urge DOC to see beyond the positions presented by powerful advocacy groups, some of which do not present the views of the majority of, for example, recreational fishers. Furthermore I note that other users of the Gulf, including ocean swimmers, kayakers or divers, currently have no organisations advocating for their views. This raises the risks of their voices being drowned out.

Ngā mihi,  
s 9 (2)(a)  
s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPad

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 10:55 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission from landowners re: Revitalising the Gulf  
**Attachments:** Revitalising the Gulf feedback Takangaroa Island 27 Oct 2022.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

This submission is on behalf of the joint landowners of s 9 (2)(a), s 9 (2)(a) and represents the views of all three owners.

Contact: s 9 (2)(a)  
s 9 (2)(a)  
s 9 (2)(a)

# Feedback on “Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan”

## Takangaroa Island

Authors: The s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)



27 October 2022

## **Introduction and caveats**

This submission is based on the information contained in the “Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan” (Revitalising the Gulf) publication and our interpretation of the proposed areas of coverage and proposed rules around permitted activities within those areas. We have sought clarification in a number of areas, and if the areas of coverage or proposed permitted activities change, we may wish to provide additional feedback and consultation.

This submission is in three parts:

1. The background to Takangaroa Island and why we, as landowners, have a very strong interest and history in one of the areas being proposed, as well as our previous support for conservation efforts.
2. Discussion of the proposed inclusion or exclusion of the existing Kawau Bay Cable Protection Zone (or CPZ) in the High Protection Area.
3. A request that due to the special nature of how the proposed changes would affect us as landowners, we are engaged directly in consultation over the proposals and their implementation.

## **Takangaroa Island**

Takangaroa Island is approximately two hectares in size and is located in Kawau Bay, near Warkworth, at the northern apex of the Kawau Bay Cable Protection Zone.

Goat Island (as it was known then) was purchased by our father, Thomas R. Clarkson, in 1929 and has remained in the family now for almost 100 years with the fourth generation of family members now enjoying the island.

We have always respected the Island and its conservation and other opportunities. In 1971 T.R. Clarkson arranged for the island to be renamed to what we understood from research and discussion with local iwi at that time to reflect the earlier local references to Takangaroa.

When originally purchased Takangaroa was overrun with rabbits and dominated by pine trees planted by Sir George Grey. With the demise of the rabbits the Island is now naturally pest free with no rats, mice, possums etc, something we work hard to protect including collaborating with DoC to do carbon paper track tests for detection of rats and mice.

In 1962 Takangaroa (as Goat Island) was gazetted as a wildlife refuge with no guns, cats or dogs allowed. It was re-gazetted in 1971 with the change of name to Takangaroa Island. Today Takangaroa has maturing native bush and a healthy but fluctuating population of nesting birds including korora, kawau, tui, karoro, matuku moana, tauhou, piwakawaka, pipiwharau, riroriro, ruru, kotare, torea and kahu.

We also support the local community. In 1963 when requested to allow Takangaroa to be used as a joining point for the power cable to Kawau Island we agreed, and now host that joint and also a transformer for our own domestic power supply. The main power cable comes ashore close to the north end of the island on the western side and exits on the eastern side to Kawau Island. At that time the cable protection zone was about 150 yards wide with boundary markers on the northern point and on the eastern and western shores of Takangaroa Island. The CPZ area was a corridor similarly indicated by boundary markers on the mainland and on Kawau Island.

We stress that while most boat owners respect the obvious triangular cable markers on the north end of Takangaroa (and we actively engage and educate those who anchor in the well-defined cable marker zones) there is little adherence to the wider Cable Protection Zone as shown on maps. It is common for boats to anchor and fish in the shelter of Takangaroa. There is no signage of the Cable Protection Zone at the common launching ramps, and no signage on Takangaroa advising that anchoring and fishing is prohibited south of Takangaroa. As landowners we have had previous

## Takangaroa Island feedback on Revitalising the Gulf

engagement with the Ministry of Transport over changes to the Cable Protection Zone recognising that the current boundaries are little known and not followed in practice and create inconsistencies. We submit that the Kawau Bay Cable Protection Zone is largely a paper definition, and most people instead know and adhere to the narrow cable marker corridors close to the entry and exit points of the power cable on the mainland, Takangaroa Island and Kawau Island.

Our interest in conservation extends to the health of the fisheries, and over our long history with the area we have observed the significant decline in fish stocks and resulting impact on the marine habitats. We recall the days when the dorsal fins of snapper could be observed breaking the surface of the water as they came right up to rocks.

We have always relied on fishing for food when at Takangaroa Island as it is not always feasible to shop, nor can the ferry do deliveries. We only ever catch what we need for food, and are scrupulous in observing all fishing regulations related to size etc.

As landowners we strongly support conservation efforts, and generally support and endorse the proposed actions to restore the health of the fisheries. We envisage working in partnership with DoC and MPI on implementation and support for the proposals as relevant to Takangaroa Island, now and for future generations.

### **Proposed High Protection Area in Kawau Bay**

We believe that the proposal is to include the existing Kawau Bay Cable Protection Zone in the High Protection Area. That proposal would mean that Takangaroa Island would be entirely within the High Protection Area. This would be the first instance of a privately owned island in New Zealand within a marine reserve. We have not worked through all the implications but could foresee complications related to a wide range of topics to address, beyond the scope of this submission.

We propose that the intent and purpose of the plan could be addressed if:

- the Cable Protection Zone was excluded from the High Protection Area, or
- the northern boundary of the High Protection Area was re-drawn to exclude Takangaroa Island.

While we appreciate the drafting simplicity of using the existing Cable Protection Zone the increased restrictions around Takangaroa Island would seem to introduce an unnecessary level of complexity and potential issues. For example, there is no defined formal boundary between the CPZ and Takangaroa Island, as with other land adjacent to the CPZ. A revised northern boundary of the proposed High Protection Area would not appear to materially compromise the proposals.

If the proposal for a High Protection Area continues to include the CPZ, then we request direct engagement and consultation as landowners of a private island that will be surrounded by what is effectively a marine reserve. We also consider that the 2-kilometre wide CPZ is an anomaly and maybe a mistake. If this is so it would be inappropriate to use the CPZ to define a part of the HPA.

### **Direct Consultation and Engagement**

To date we have had no direct discussions, and we wish to engage on what we consider customary usage necessary to sustain people while living on Takangaroa Island, as well as discussing how - as eyes and ears on the ground - we can support DoC and MPI as an active partner.

## **Takangaroa Island feedback on Revitalising the Gulf**

### **Summary**

Takangaroa Island would be surrounded by the proposed High Protection Area in Kawau Bay. As the landowners of Takangaroa Island we support the intent and approach of Revitalising the Gulf but propose that a minor modification to the northern boundary would still meet the intent of the High Protection Area and avoid a number of potential issues and complications.

If our suggested changes cannot be accommodated, we request direct engagement and consultation to discuss and resolve a number of detailed issues.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 12:24 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf – Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension  
**Attachments:** Hahei Marine reserve submission.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Please refer to the attached submission.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

§ 9 (2)(a)  
§ 9 (2)(a)  
§ 9 (2)(a)  
§ 9 (2)(a)

Department of Conservation

**By email: Seachange@doc.govt.nz**

27 October 2022

To whom it may concern

**Revitalising the Gulf – Marine protection proposals**

**- Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension**

Thank you for the opportunity for our family to participate in consultation on the proposal to extend Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) marine reserve. We have holidayed in Hahei for decades first starting at the camping ground and in later years becoming ratepayers. We grew up fishing in the area off the beach, off the Wigmore Crescent bridge and from small boating craft. These activities were infrequent, involving very small numbers of fish and were essentially designed to teach children how to fish.

We acknowledge and support the overall aim of increasing marine protection but we are concerned that what is proposed for Hahei Beach will not work in practice and will cause social unrest. Our specific submission points are set out below:

**A. Hahei Beach Boundary**

We **do not agree** that the marine reserve should be extended along Hahei Beach because:

1. It would be almost impossible to clearly identify the start/end of the Marine Reserve on a beach. We anticipate this would lead to:
  - a) Administrative confusion relating to concessions, policing etc.
  - b) Visual pollution of one of the most beautiful beaches in the world in order to show the demarcation of where the marine reserve starts and stops and to set out all the rules and restrictions.
  - c) Risk of social disturbance between those who draw the rules to the attention of those who choose not to obey such rules.
  - d) A concentration of fishing activity within a short distance of the boundary in the non-marine reserve section.

- e) A risk that while a person and their fishing rod is clear of the boundary, their line may drift into the reserve (again creating the risk of aggressive interactions between beachgoers).
2. We believe the proposal to provide direct access to a marine reserve that spans half of Hahei beach is an overreach that will cause problems for Hahei residents, visitors and government agencies alike and will thus be more detrimental than beneficial. We offer some examples of the practical difficulties of policing rules/bylaws in Hahei below:
- a) We have difficulty at times explaining to people that they are swimming/playing in the ski lane and the consequence of getting that decision wrong could be a matter of life or death. Imagine how much harder it would be to stop a snorkeller with a spear gun entering the sea within the proposed marine reserve boundary when they can't see it and there's nothing physical to determine when they cross the boundary?
  - b) Without intending to offend or disregard the rules, people can and do miss seeing the bright red "No dogs on the beach" signs because they are not always well placed or of a size that you could not possibly miss them. However, in terms of addressing the problem of people not being aware of the signs, we would not want every possible access to the beach gated with signs and we certainly do not want the signs increased in size.
  - c) As a ratepayer we only notice a sporadic presence of DOC/Fisheries officers enforcing the existing rules.
3. We understand from discussions with others over Labour Weekend that walking dogs in the marine reserve part of the beach would not be permitted if the marine reserve was extended to end halfway along Hahei Beach. We believe that dog owners should be able to walk their pets over the entire length of the beach when permitted by TCDC regulations.
4. Hahei residents believe that residents and visitors to Hahei should:
- a) retain the right to fish from the beach using fishing rods; and
  - b) remove items such as shells, seaweed and driftwood from along the entire beach.
- The number of fish caught from the beach by surfcasters always seems to be at very low levels. Children should be able to collect and study shells.

## **B. Mahurangi Island Boundary**

We **do not agree** with the marine reserve boundary being aligned with the Western side of Mahurangi Island. We believe that the northwest coast of Mahurangi Island should remain outside of any marine reserve expansion since it offers a safe family boating/fishing experience in adverse weather.

C. Expansion of the marine reserve seawards from Whanganui a hei (Cathedral Cove)

We agree with extending the marine reserve seaward beyond Mahurangi Island.

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We are happy to provide further comment if required.

Yours sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** Provider Retreats & Adventures s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 5:24 am  
**To:** Sea Change; MSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz; d.parker@ministers.govt.nz;  
scott.simpson@national.org.nz  
**Subject:** Submission against proposed Hauraki Gulf MPA  
**Attachments:** MPAs (1).pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Please find submission attached.

We wish to be consulted at every step going forward.

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All the best

s 9 (2)(a)

Provider Retreats and Adventures

s 9 (2)(a)

[www.theprovider.co.nz](http://www.theprovider.co.nz)

[www.facebook.com/provideradventures](https://www.facebook.com/provideradventures)

[www.instagram.com/provider\\_nz](https://www.instagram.com/provider_nz)

[Provider YouTube](#)

Submitter:

1. Provider Adventures Ltd [www.theprovider.co.nz](http://www.theprovider.co.nz)
2. Tairua Adventures Ltd trading as Artisan Fishg Co [www.artisanfishing.co.nz](http://www.artisanfishing.co.nz)
3. s 9 (2)(a) (6th generation local tangata whenua)
4. s 9 (2)(a) (Te Aupōuri, Te Rarawa)
5. To be consulted in writing at s 9 (2)(a)

Submission:

1. THIS IS A SUBMISSION AGAINST THE PROPOSED HAURAKI GULF MPA's
2. The proposed MPA's are a blatant breach of our human rights, freedom to move, freedom to trade, and freedom to source kai and sustain ourselves
3. The proposed MPA's will cause more damage than good
4. We wish to be consulted at every step going forward, in person and in writing
5. Carl has been at sea all his life, following in the footsteps of those that went before him and knows the waters intimately. The waters north of the Aldermen Islands are as abundant as they have ever been.
6. For many parts of the year, the waters north of the Aldermen Islands are the only consistent place to catch kingfish, as these fish migrate off the coast for a large part of the year
7. Kingfish are the only year round sustainable fish that support a good charter fishing industry
8. Kingfish are one of the only consistent sources of health wild organic kaimoana - one fish feeds a family for a long time, using the whole fish
9. For the last 20 years, Carl has founded a new sustainable tourism industry in the township of Tairua around charter fishing - bringing in New Zealanders, and many international tourists. For many Kiwis this is the first time they truly get into nature and see how they are intertwined with nature and where their food comes from.
10. The proposed MPA's will crush this industry.
11. The charter industry uses sustainable practices. Where MPI have a 3 kingfish per person policy, the charter fleet locally has 1 kingfish per person max.
12. The proposed MPA's will crush charter fishing, and many of these businesses will not be able to survive
13. Carl feels MPI and Ministry of Environment have cheated the charter industry with Amateur Charter reporting - using the data they have collected for research purposes over the years - for these proposals
14. Fishing is a source of identity, culture, self esteem, purpose, preventative health for locals, and most New Zealanders
15. These proposals will have an adverse affect on wellbeing, mental health, preventative health
16. These proposals will cause safety issues - pushing many boats people further off shore
17. The town of Tairua relies on boat owners for its local economy

18. The proposed northern Aldermen MPA is at times the only consistent area to catch pelagic fish like marlin as they transit through the Coromandel in summer. These are a migratory fish, quick growing, and a good easy source of nutrition for many New Zealanders
19. Carl runs Wellbeing Retreats around Men's Health, taking men back into nature to heal, and 100% of these retreats have an element of fishing where the northern MPA at the Aldermen Islands is proposed.
20. Charter Boats provider a service to the many Kiwis that cannot afford to buy a boat and get on the water and catch their own food
21. During winter many fish species push well offshore, and places like the proposed northern MPA at the Aldermen Islands become the only prolific fishing grounds as fish thin off the coast. This area is some of the only productive ground over winter inside territorial water from Tairua and Pauanui, and these towns rely on fishermen to survive over winter
22. The charter fishing industry is evolving with good leadership and focusing on showing Kiwis how fishing helps with self esteem, a sense of purpose and culture, mental health and overall wellbeing
23. The MPA's will crush the only real year round tourism we have in Tairua and that is charter fishing. The proposals are soul destroying after all the work we have done to forge a new responsible low impact way of fishing for the town.
24. In 2021 Carl and Tia founded Artisan Fishing Co - trying to 'be the change' they saw was required in commercial fishing. They invested in a new low impact business model, using their charter boat, and complying with MPI, to supply fish to locals and local restaurants. Most of the mahi they do, and the fish caught, comes from the waters around the Aldermen Island where the northern MPA is proposed. The Ministry of Environment and MPI are trying to crush community led initiatives with local knowledge, trying to find ways to lower emissions, fish responsibly and ensure food security for local towns.
25. MoE and MPI should empower local communities to better conserve their own waters - these proposals are a step away from that and will only harm small towns.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 6:49 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission - Hauraki Gulf marine protection

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi  
Current proposals too small in total. Should include 30% of Hauraki Gulf.

Increase proposed HPZ near Kawau to include Mahurangi peninsula and Motuora Island

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

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## Sea Change

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**From:** Panapa Charters Limited s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:10 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on proposed High Protection Zones in the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Seachange DOC proposal 27 10 22 (002).pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Seachange  
Department of Conservation  
[Seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>) or the Motukawao Group (30 km<sup>2</sup>) 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 Areas 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).*

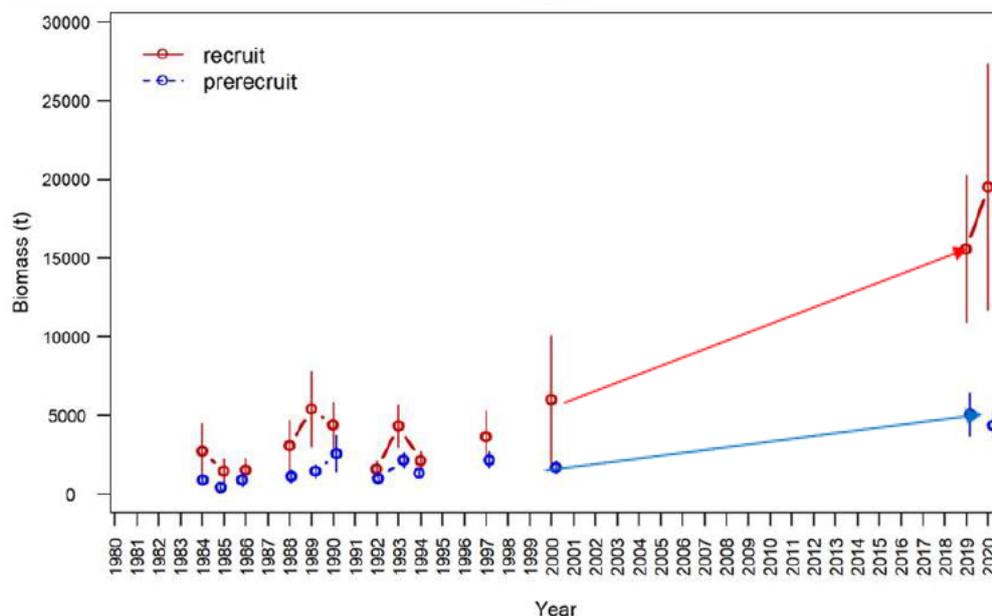
Nor is there any data or observations that set the benchmark on how the establishment of the specific HPA's will improve the pre-HPA ecosystems around these areas.

**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

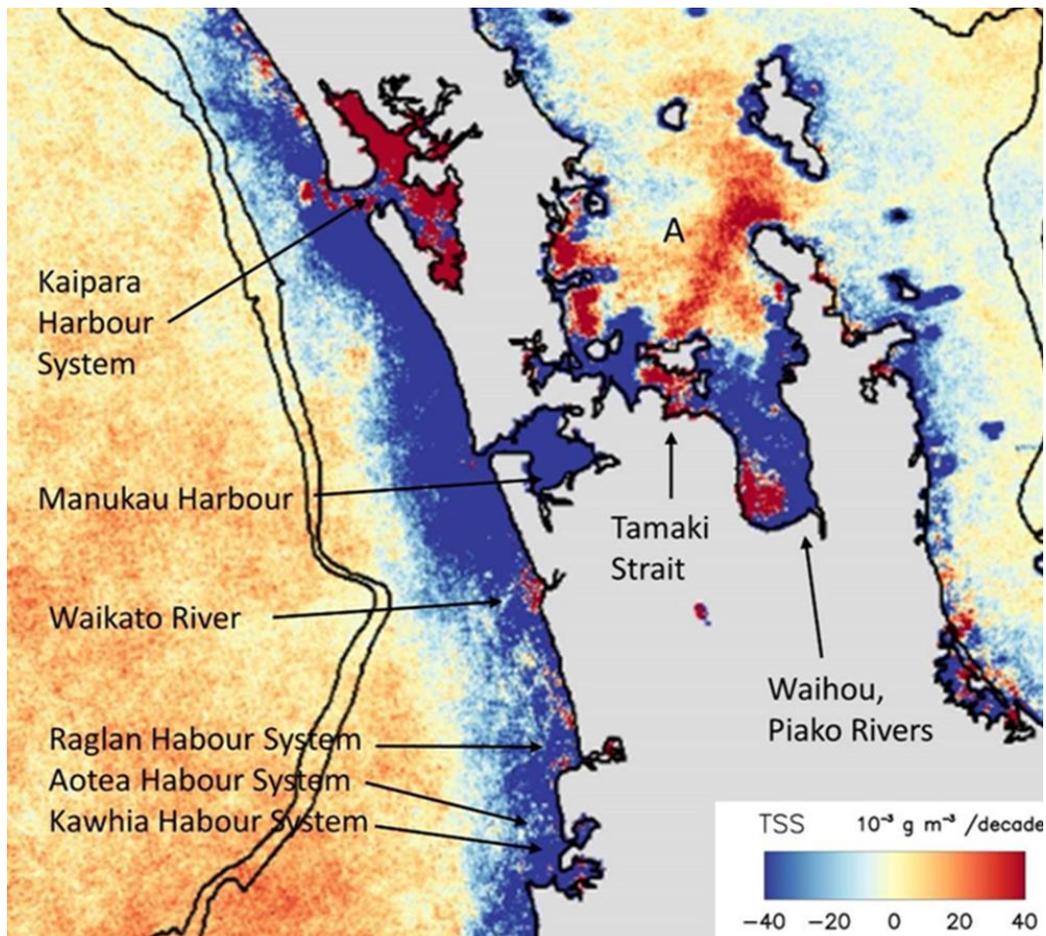


## HPA's are not strategically aligned to solving the biggest future threat to the Gulf, particularly the inner Gulf

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. (See map of spatial trends in sedimentation of the Hauraki Gulf (Niwa 2022))



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 we oppose the creation of these HPA's for the following reasons:

- It 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.
- It will not solve the fundamental problems facing the health of the Hauraki Gulf, particularly the inner part of the Gulf ,which are now essentially land use -sediment based.
- It will reduce people on modest budgets and small boats to catch fish for themselves and their whanau

However, we understand that this is only a preliminary phase in the development of new legislation to help protect and enhance the ecosystem of the Hauraki gulf for all to enjoy. We look forward to being part of those vital conversations.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)  
Balmain Boating Services

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

and on behalf of the following charter boat operators at Z pier Westhaven

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s 9 (2)(a) Snap Attack s 9 (2)(a)  
[Redacted]  
s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:14 am  
**To:** Sea Change; s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Submission on Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Submission on Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection

s 9 (2)(a)  
Individual Submission

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

I **fully support the full proposal** for Marine Protected Areas to help revitalise the Hauraki Gulf.

I am a Marine Ecologist, and Biosecurity Specialist, raised in Whangaparaoa, Auckland. I now live in Ngunguru, Whangarei however I regularly recreate on the Hauraki Gulf's off shore islands so this proposal directly affects me and my family.

The Hauraki gulfs marine biodiversity needs protection (not just valuable fish stocks such as snapper). I am a keen fisherman and diver and understand the importance and need for more marine reserves, high protection areas and other mechanisms to protect our marine biodiversity for the current pressures of recreational and commercial fishing, climate change and marine pollution.

I also support the initiatives that support mana whenua, and allow for customary practices, including management and monitoring of these areas as kaitiaki.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:15 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Fwd: Submission on proposed High Protection Zones in the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Seachange DOC proposal 27 10 22 (002).pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Seachange  
Department of Conservation  
[Seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>) or the Motukawao Group (30 km<sup>2</sup>) 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 Areas 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).*

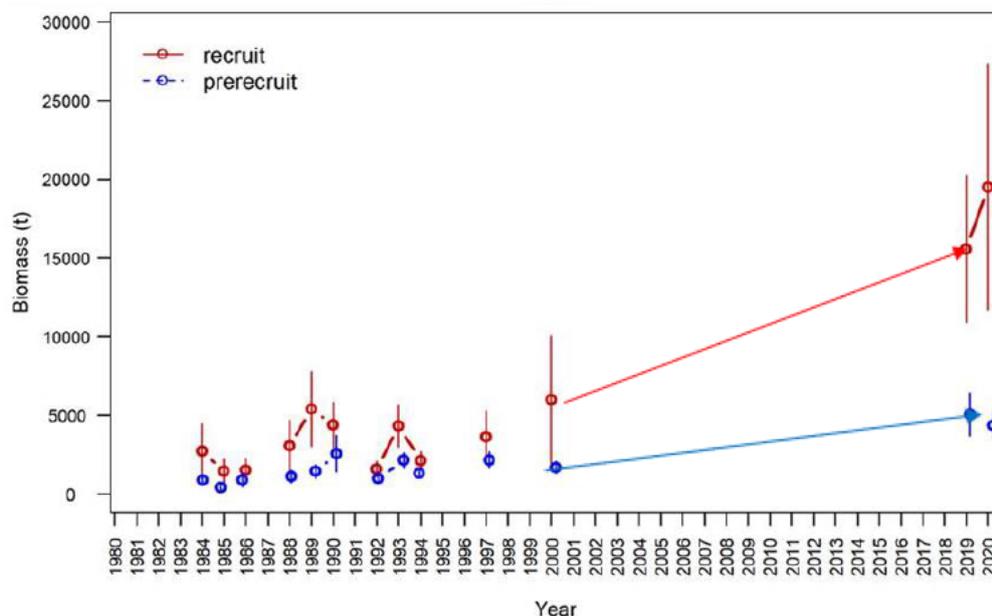
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Much of the work on the establishment of these HPA's began 6- 7 years ago; well before the Gulf wide government moratorium on scallop collection or dredging, or collection of crayfish or the establishment of rahui to protect coastlines. But the rationale 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

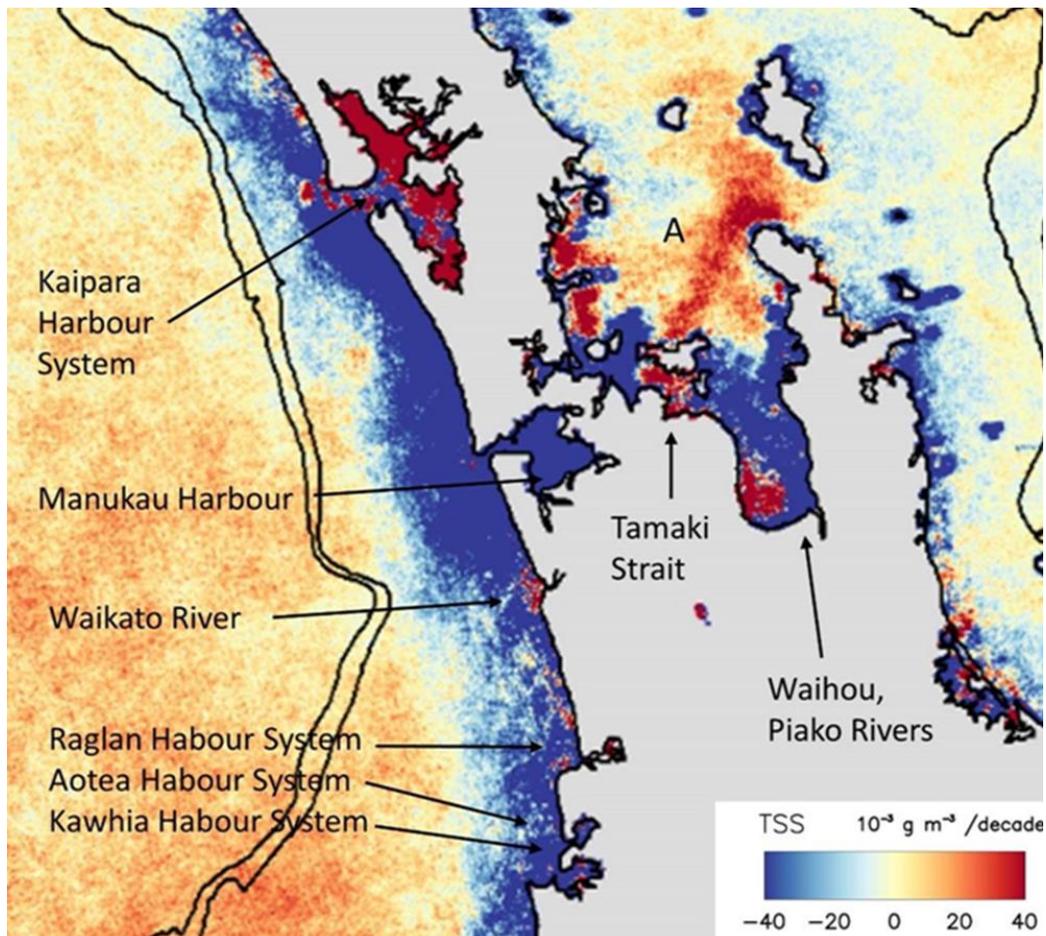


## HPA's are not strategically aligned to solving the biggest future threat to the Gulf, particularly the inner Gulf

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However, we understand that this is only a preliminary phase in the development of new legislation to help protect and enhance the ecosystem of the Hauraki gulf for all to enjoy. We look forward to being part of those vital conversations.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)  
Balmain Boating Services

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[Redacted]  
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and on behalf of the following charter boat operators at Z pier Westhaven

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s 9 (2)(a) Snap Attack s 9 (2)(a)  
[Redacted]  
s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:44 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) reserve extension  
**Attachments:** Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear sirs / madam

Please refer to attached letter opposing the reserve extension

Thanks

s 9 (2)(a)

[Seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Seachange@doc.govt.nz)

Dear sirs / madam

**Re extension of the high protection area for Whanganui-a-Hei**

The existing marine reserve has been a success but any shortcomings in achieving its full potential are more attributable to lack of enforcement rather than extension of area.

I have been diving and fishing from Hahei beach for over 30 years and oppose the proposed extension on the following grounds:

- 1) By extending seaward it includes South Sunk rock which is a submerged reef with high diversity of sea life in close proximity to the existing reserve. This is a unique diving and fishing spot that is accessible by kayak and small boat from Hahei beach. There is no equivalent reef in the area for recreational fishermen to enjoy if this were to be included in a reserve.
- 2) The Northwest coast of Mahurangi offers protection from adverse weather conditions and partial access for recreational fishing should remain available

Thankyou

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:46 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** The ability to catch dinner for the first time...

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

s 9 (2)(a)

I work for a charitable trust and take kids fishing from the rocks/wharf and kayak.

I really hope this doesnt impact us and the ability to see someone catch dinner for the first time.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:48 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hahei Reserve extension.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a) a 50 year Batch owner at s 9 (2)(a) and an avid Scuba Diver and Fisherman..

I totally support your recommendations to enlarge the Reserve as we have all enjoyed the effects of the current reserve and the spill over effects from the increased breeding of all species.

My only concern is that regarding the exercising of Dogs down the beach and if that is preserved then I accept the proposal wholeheartedly.

I worry that a mid beach line will be difficult for all concerned and if the boundary was to be extended to include the Wigmore Passage Point then that would not only make more sense but also pick up and include some very important breeding ground reefs and rock formations .

Our locals arguments are all so hollow and short sighted that they fail to see the huge benefits that will follow any extension of the reserve and provided we can all continue to launch boats from the beach they and their Children and Grandchildren will be better off in every respect.

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 7:57 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a) My address is s 9 (2)(a) .  
I support the SeaChange proposals for the creation of additional maritime reserves in the Hauraki Gulf and beyond. I have been a recreational fisher all my adult life s 9 (2)(a) and observing the reduction in fish catch and diversity of fish species is both marked and alarming.

Thank you for this opportunity to indicate my support for the development of more maritime reserves and all the good work that DOC does for Aotearoa New Zealand.

s 9 (2)(a)  
Sent from my iPad

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:00 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Hauraki Gulf Marine Protections

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to outline my full support for the marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. As a resident of Hahei, I am lucky enough to already have access to the Te Whanganui a Hei marine reserve and all its benefits, and would love to see this reserve expanded and others instigated.

I have spent years as a scuba instructor diving around the local area and the reduction in the local crayfish population has been startling. Even within the reserve crayfish numbers have been falling, which has been scientifically related to the small size of the reserve. We have also seen significant Kina barrens forming around Mahurangi Island, a clear sign of the current ecological imbalance. We desperately need more protection for keystone species such as Snapper and Crayfish. I would also like to see reduced commercial TACC and lower recreational daily bag limits alongside the MPA creation, to ensure there is no offsetting of fishing effort into new areas.

Thank you for your time,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:04 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Marine Protection  
**Attachments:** s 9 (2)(a) submission marine protection.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

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

## **Submission for Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals**

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

s 9 (2)(a) resident, 24.10.22

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I live in s 9 (2)(a), a small fishing community north of Auckland. 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/Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui ā Toi.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The current proposals will result in approximately 6% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park being in a form of *no-take marine protection*. This excludes the cable protection zones which don't constitute marine protection under IUCN definitions. Whilst this is an enormous step forward for the Hauraki Gulf, it is still a very small fraction of the Marine Park and *requires further ambition to reach a 30% target*.

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

#### **FURTHER SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVES AND ADDITIONAL AREAS:**

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

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

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

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

The proposed Craddock Channel Seafloor Protection Area to the east of Hauturu will provide a level of protection for reef and seafloor communities and is relatively large.

However the area directly adjoining the east coast of Hauturu has been omitted from the proposal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **ADDITIONAL AREAS should be considered for protection at:**

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:16 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Seachange submission for the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Seachange DOC proposal 27 10 22 (002).docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

I support this submission

s 9 (2)(a)

Seachange  
Department of Conservation  
[Seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Seachange@doc.govt.nz)

25 October 2022.

Submission on proposed High Protection Zones in the Hauraki Gulf

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- 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>) or the Motukawao Group (30 km<sup>2</sup>) which is a very popular and productive fishing area across all cultural groups, Maori, Pakeha, Pacifica and Asian

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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).*

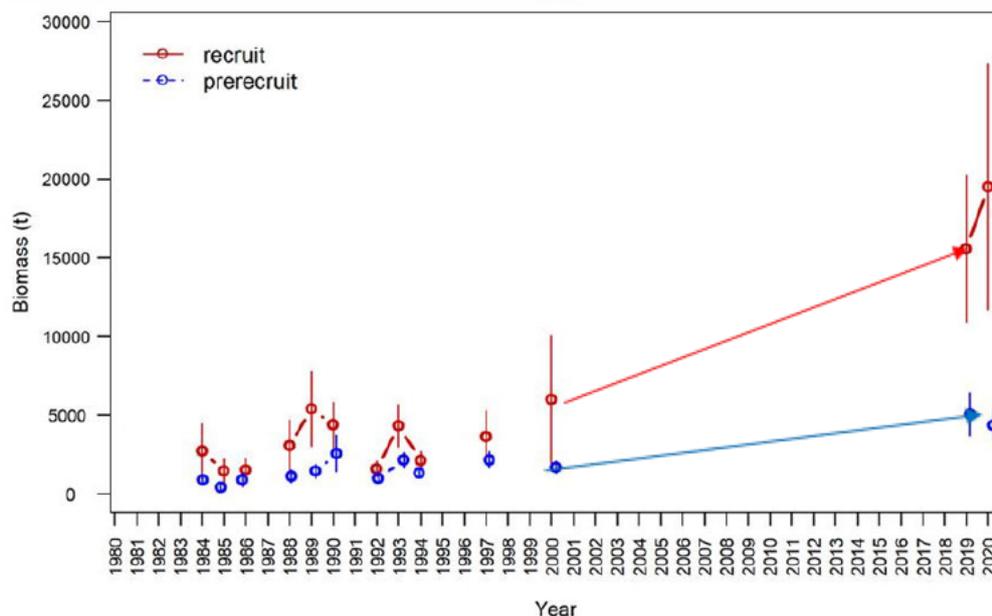
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The narrative of the DOC proposal and its supporting documentation also predates the publication of the NIWA trawl survey data in 2021 that shows snapper stocks and many other species have significantly recovered over recent years. See slide below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

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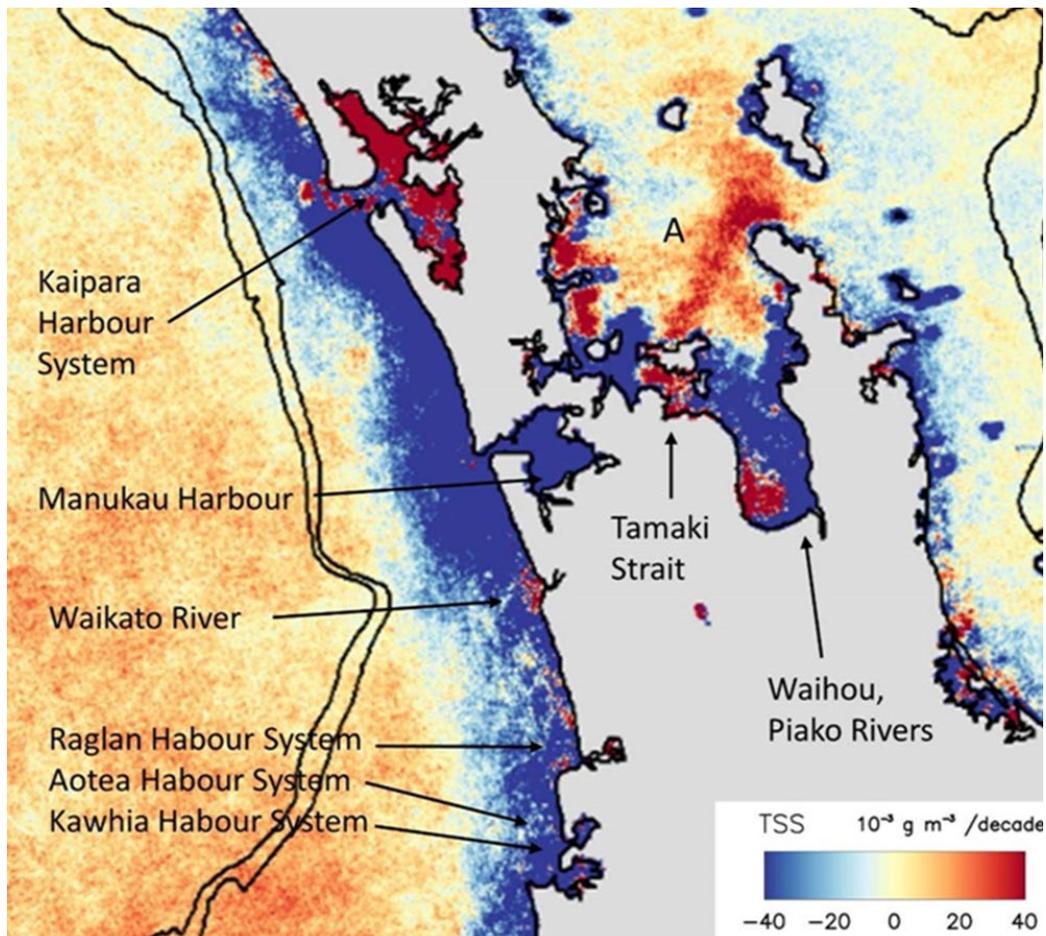


## HPA's are not strategically aligned to solving the biggest future threat to the Gulf, particularly the inner Gulf

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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. (See map of spatial trends in sedimentation of the Hauraki Gulf (Niwa 2022))



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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 we oppose the creation of these HPA's for the following reasons:

- It 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.
- It will not solve the fundamental problems facing the health of the Hauraki Gulf, particularly the inner part of the Gulf ,which are now essentially land use -sediment based.
- It will reduce people on modest budgets and small boats to catch fish for themselves and their whanau

However, we understand that this is only a preliminary phase in the development of new legislation to help protect and enhance the ecosystem of the Hauraki gulf for all to enjoy. We look forward to being part of those vital conversations.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Balmain Boating Services

s 9 (2)(a)

and on behalf of the following charter boat operators at Z pier Westhaven

Dr Hook Charters s 9 (2)(a)

Alan Seasprite Charters s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a) Princess Carol Charters

s 9 (2)(a) Snap Attack s 9 (2)(a)

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:25 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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

On behalf of myself and partner, and our children and grandchildren we strongly support the proposal for more marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf. (And the rest of NZ and globally!)

The numerous documentaries we have watched and articles read, backed up by observations made ourselves as keen sailors, snorkelers and scuba divers leave us in no doubt that more protected areas are essential to allow for regeneration of ocean environments and fish populations. We have dived and snorkeled in many places including the Goat Island and Poor Knight's marine reserves and found the difference between reserves and non reserves to be like comparing forest to desert! We have seen the Kina barrens which result from over abundance of kina due to removal of fish predators and the subsequent destruction of kelp areas.

We have also seen the enjoyment of children encountering marine life in safe shallow water, and the great work EMR do in introducing and educating young people on marine reserve environments. The popularity of these reserves is another reason why we need many more protected areas.

Please approve these proposals.

Finally as stated by the great David Attenborough... 'this is not about saving the planet... it is about saving ourselves!!'

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:27 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Marine Protected Area proposals

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora DOC,

My name is s 9 (2)(a) I reside in s 9 (2)(a).

**I support the Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals package** to establish new marine and seafloor protection areas in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi (the Gulf). I encourage Ministers to proceed as quickly as possible to implement these much-needed changes.

The health of the Gulf is important to me because I swim at the beaches, I visit the islands, motorboat, snorkel and/or SCUBA dive, and do water sports (surfing, paddle boarding, kiteboarding, windsurfing).

As someone who works at a local marina (OBC), these marine reserves are a step forward in reducing the sheer amount of fish caught on a somewhat good winter's day vs the extreme amount caught in summer (well over 300). Also, as a marine scientist, the biodiversity in these areas is so important to the future of the Gulf

We have seen the direct benefit of marine protection at Goat Island / Te Hāwera-a-Maki, Whanganui-ā-Hei and the Poor Knights / Tawhiti Rahi. The proposal to protect a network of small areas in the Gulf will stimulate regeneration in these areas and beyond them.

The Government MUST act with urgency to set in place all 19 protection zones proposed. Expert opinion and successive State of the Gulf reports indicate that the Gulf is in a biodiversity crisis and close to ecological collapse. It is time to act for the benefit of future generations to improve the state of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Nāku noa, nā  
s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:37 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a) I reside in s 9 (2)(a) and my postal address is s 9 (2)(a)

I support the SeaChange proposals for the creation of additional maritime reserves in the Hauraki Gulf. I have observed and am concerned about both the reduction in fish numbers and the diversity of fish species in the gulf.

Thank you for this opportunity to indicate my support for the revitalising the Hauraki Gulf by the proposed development of more maritime reserves.

s 9 (2)(a)  
Email: s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPad

## Sea Change

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**From:** Clearyak s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:43 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** In Favor of protected Marine Area

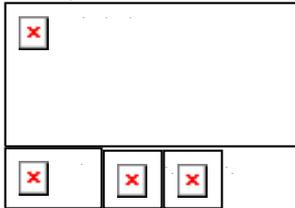
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

s 9 (2)(a)  
Clearyak  
Whole Organisation

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

**Best,**



s 9 (2)(a)

[#clearyaknz](#)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 8:49 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Sea Change Submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I live at s 9 (2)(a)

I would like to submit on the proposal to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf

I support the majority of the changes but believe certain activities should be prohibited from all areas. In particular bottom trawling, dredging and set netting (commercial and recreational). These are non-selective and archaic fishing techniques that have significant potential to impact non-target species and ecosystems. In the case of bottom trawling and dredging, they cause damage to the seafloor and potentially disrupts ecosystems that seem to be poorly understood.

The commercial benefits from these activities for the wider community are non-existent and there is no offset for the incidental environmental damage that is done as a consequence of these activities. I believe that these do not have a place in any modern day marine area management plan.

I am not opposed to dredging where it is for the purpose of marine safety i.e. maintaining shipping channels, ports etc.

Regards  
s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 9:15 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)

Your Name: s 9 (2)(a)

Your Email: s 9 (2)(a)

Address: s 9 (2)(a)

Subject: Revitalising the Hauraki

### Message

Please consider protecting more of the Hauraki golf to preserve our oceans for future generations. Marine protected areas can be used as amazing learning environments as well as save places for fish stocks to recover.

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 9:35 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals  
**Attachments:** Seachange submission Caiger.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Department of Conservation,

Please find attached my feedback in relation to the Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals, which I am strongly in support of.

Best wishes,  
s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Marine Scientist and Photographer

s 9 (2)(a)

**Dear Department of Conservation,**

I am writing to provide my support for the Marine Protection Proposals in the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana.

I strongly support the establishment of the 12 High Protection Areas.

I strongly support the establishment of seafloor protection areas. However, I do believe bottom contact fishing methods are incredibly damaging and the negatives of this fishing (long-lasting damage to the habitat, including harming successive generations of the very species they are harvesting) strongly outweighs the positives (the catch).

I strongly support the extension of the two existing marine reserves: Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve and Whanganui-a-Hei Marine Reserve. However, I believe this would be far more logically implemented under the Marine Reserves Act, as having different zones and boundaries would create unnecessary confusion. There is ample scientific evidence to support extending these boundaries further from shore (i.e. rock lobster and snapper travel beyond the existing offshore boundaries).

I think we have some way to go to protect and safeguard our Gulf, for future generations to enjoy, and to prevent the continued rapid decline of such a unique and wonderful maritime environment. We are tied to the state of the Gulf in so many ways: socially, culturally, financially, and ecologically, so it is imperative that it be revitalised to some semblance of what it once was. In saying that, I believe this marine protection proposal is an exceptional first step to achieving that. So, I applaud all the people and organisations who have contributed to getting this proposal this far, and deeply hope that it gets across the line.

Yours sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 9:32 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Auckland Council Technical Staff Submission- Updated Marine Protection Proposals in the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Auckland Council Staff Submission - Marine Protection Proposal October 2022.pdf

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the updated marine protection proposals to *Revitalising the Gulf*. Please find Auckland Council's technical staff submission in attachment. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Ngā mihi nui,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a) (she/her) | Senior Analyst  
Natural Environment Strategy Team | Auckland Plan, Strategy & Research Department

Waea pūkoro s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Visit our website: [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



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28 October 2022

Department of Conservation  
Wellington Office  
18 Manners Street  
Wellington 6011

By Email: [seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)

## **Auckland Council's submission on Updated Marine Protection Proposals to Revitalising the Gulf**

Thank you for providing Auckland Council with the opportunity to submit on the updated marine protection proposals by central government in response to *Revitalising the Gulf*. The Auckland Council staff submission is attached. The staff submission incorporates feedback from the Auckland Council Group and the Chairs of the Aotea/ Great Barrier and Waiheke Local Boards.

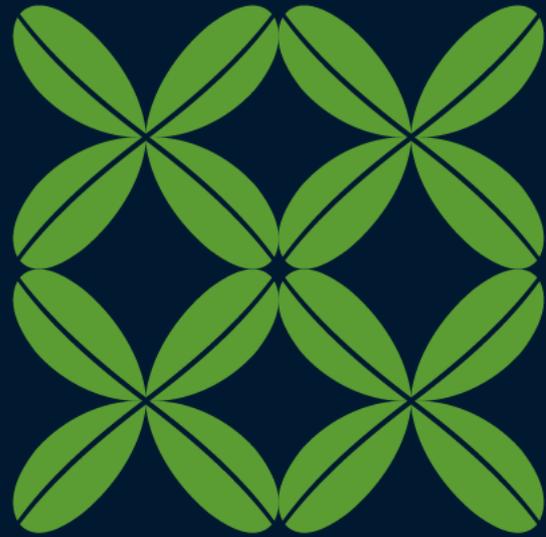
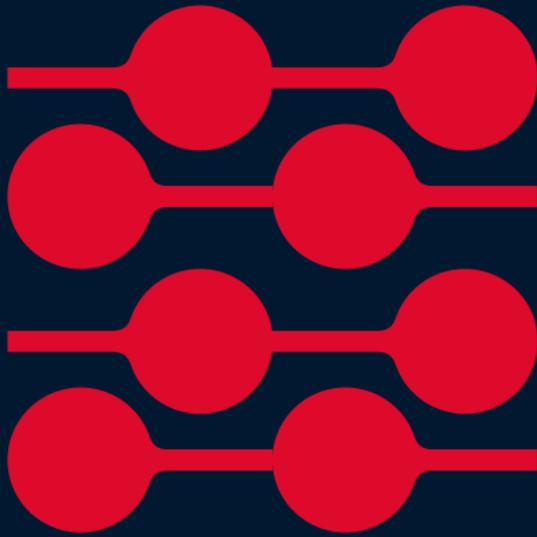
Please contact **s 9 (2)(a)** **s 9 (2)(a)**), Senior Analyst (Auckland Plan Strategy and Research Department), with any queries regarding Auckland Council's submission.

Ngā mihi,

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

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

General Manager Auckland Plan Strategy and Research  
Chief Planning Office



# Submission to Department of Conservation

On Updated Marine Protection  
Proposals to *Revitalising the Gulf*  
28 October 2022



## Mihimihi

Ka mihi ake ai ki ngā maunga here kōrero,  
ki ngā pari whakarongo tai,  
ki ngā awa tuku kiri o ōna manawhenua,  
ōna mana ā-iwi taketake mai, tauiwi atu.  
Tāmaki – makau a te rau, murau a te tini,  
wenerau a te mano.  
Kāhore tō rite i te ao.

*I greet the mountains, repository of all that  
has been said of this place,  
there I greet the cliffs that have heard the  
ebb and flow of the tides of time,  
and the rivers that cleansed the forebears of  
all who came those born of this land  
and the newcomers among us all.  
Auckland – beloved of hundreds, famed  
among the multitude, envy of thousands.  
You are unique in the world.*

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# Executive summary

1. Auckland Council staff thank central government, specifically the Department of Conservation (DOC), for the opportunity to submit on the updated marine protection proposals to *Revitalising the Gulf*.
2. **Auckland Council group staff (staff) support strengthening marine protection through the proposed network of marine protected areas in the Hauraki Gulf.** This is consistent with technical staff feedback on *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Strategy in response to Sea Change*, (*Revitalising the Gulf*).
3. Staff understand that the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan (the Fisheries Plan) will be released by central government, through Fisheries New Zealand, before the end of 2022. The inability to assess alignment of the marine protection proposals with the draft Fisheries Plan limits the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of the tools together, and the interdependencies between them. A key issue with the potential application of marine protection tools is the significant lack of awareness about the breadth of tools currently available under the Fisheries Act that may provide better responses for clearly defined problem statements, such as restrictions on some fishing methods for seafloor protection.
4. Staff support the areas and locations of proposed protected areas, noting some additional considerations for central government around boundaries and extent to maximize the effectiveness of the proposed protected areas. Staff also note that the proposals should provide a positive impact on the protection of seabirds.
5. Staff presume that DOC will consider how other recently proposed areas for marine conservation in the Hauraki Gulf might be integrated with the proposed network of marine protection areas, especially the newly proposed Ōtata / the Noises High Protection Area (HPA) (14) and the proposed Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve in its proximity.
6. Staff note there may be potential impacts on Auckland Council's provision of wastewater and stormwater services, from a discharge perspective. Staff request clarification from DOC on the impact of the proposal on these functions, considering that an assessment of effects on the coastal receiving environment has been considered under resource management legislation.
7. Staff note that council manages regional parks and recreation sites adjacent to proposed marine protection areas. Staff request that DOC monitor and evaluate visitor numbers over time and support council with any necessary infrastructure upgrades or enhancements.
8. Staff welcome the opportunity to work with central government in expanding and implementing fit for purpose marine protection outcomes in the Hauraki Gulf in alignment with *Revitalising the Gulf*. This also includes how fisheries management tools can be applied if they are a better fit for purpose tool to a management issue occurring at a broader geographic scale.

## **Tāmaki Makaurau context**

9. Auckland Council is a unitary authority. Its governance structure includes: a governing body focusing on region-wide strategic and regulatory directions; 21 local boards; and an Independent Māori Statutory Board (IMSB) with a mandate to promote and monitor council's response to Issues of Significance to Māori (mana whenua and mataawaka) in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.
10. Under resource management legislation, the council serves as the regulator for activities in the coastal marine area of the region, including the Hauraki Gulf. Council regulates land and coastal activities within catchments that feed into the Hauraki Gulf and monitors and undertakes surveillance of marine habitats and species, as well as marine biosecurity programmes under the Biosecurity Act (1993).
11. The rate of Auckland's population growth increases the demand for space, infrastructure, and services. This puts pressure on the natural environment, which has been degraded over time by the impacts of past decisions and emerging threats, including climate change.
12. Council has made consistent efforts to advocate to central government for the protection of the marine environment and sustainably managed fisheries. Council has consistently advocated for broader and more conservative sustainability measures under fisheries legislation over ad hoc site-based protections in feedback on applications for temporary closures for the use of fisheries resources. Council also supported the proposed Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve as proposed by the Friends of the Hauraki Gulf Incorporated.
13. Council provided staff feedback on the Revitalising the Gulf central government response to the Sea Change plan in June 2020 and queried whether the proposed MPA network was optimal for the Hauraki Gulf. Staff noted that new technical information gathered since completion of the Sea Change plan in 2016 could be incorporated into the updated proposals.
14. The marine protection proposals information document was released in late September 2022 while local government elections were underway. The contents of this submission therefore have not been presented to, or considered by, the relevant committee of Auckland Council's governing body, and does not represent formal elected member feedback on these marine protection proposals.

# Information document questions

## Estimated Impact of the Protection Package

*What impact will the marine protection proposals have on you or your interests? Do you think there are any additional costs or benefits we haven't considered? For instance, those specific to individual operators?*

### Recreational & commercial fishing

15. Staff acknowledge and support the positive impact of the protection package in advancing the Hauraki Gulf Forum's goal of 30% marine protection in the Gulf, as well as international targets set through the United Nations Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD).
16. Effective conservation of the Hauraki Gulf, however, requires integrating a range of management measures beyond just tailoring site-specific management to meet biodiversity objectives. A suite of regulatory options to manage fisheries use by all sectors, as provided for in the Fisheries Act (ss 297 & 298), will be an important element to achieve the broader environmental outcomes sought.
17. The draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries plan is expected to be released by central government before the end of 2022, after feedback for the marine protection proposals has passed. This disjointed engagement approach will likely require reconciliation of feedback, prior to final advice on the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan being forwarded to the two key Ministers involved.
18. Given the engagement approach adopted, the ability to comment on the alignment between the proposals for marine protection and fisheries management is limited. The relationship between special management areas and corridors for bottom-contacting fishing methods in the proposed Fisheries Plan will have a bearing on the level of protection and recovery for fish species in the proposed protection areas, especially around the Mokohinau Islands, Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island, Tāwharanui and Cathedral Cove.
19. The marine protected areas proposed in this consultation, and future release of the finalised Fisheries Plan, should provide certainty to support Auckland Council in considering fisheries controls in future reviews of the Auckland Unitary Plan, as enabled by the Motiti decision. It is likely that this will be considered in 2026.
20. We note that the economic impact assessment for commercial fisheries referenced in the proposal did not consider the Ōtata / the Noises proposed HPA (14) or the proposed Hākaimango-Matiatia marine reserve. Restrictions in these areas may influence the distribution of commercial and recreational fishing in the wider Gulf, and the impact of these proposed areas on fisheries activities in the wider Gulf should be considered.

### Areas & locations of proposed protection

21. Staff reiterate broad support for the proposed marine protection areas, noting some additional considerations to either improve their effectiveness for biodiversity outcomes, and/or ensure the proposed restrictions do not negate the benefits of the proposal by prohibiting activities that would otherwise be effectively managed under resource management legislation.

22. Given the intent of Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs), staff question prohibiting fishing methods in SPAs that are unlikely to significantly affect seafloor protection outcomes (e.g. potting or bottom longlining). One of the stated design elements of SPAs in the proposal is to allow for 'compatible uses', which would presumably include relatively benign fishing methods within the SPAs.
23. The Auckland Regional Parks Management Plan, adopted by the governing body of Auckland Council in September 2022, acknowledges the connection between land-based activities and receiving coastal environments in aspiring to higher marine protection adjacent to terrestrial sanctuaries managed by council. Increasing the level of protection in proposed marine reserves adjacent to regional parks, enables a ki uta ki tai approach that promotes a naturally protected sequence of ecosystems from ridgelines to coastlines, particularly where public access is facilitated through the proximity to a regional park. This specifically applies to Tāwharanui and Shakespeare Regional Parks (proposed areas 10 and 11 respectively). However, we recognise that any considerations for greater protection should be predicated on evidence of high marine biodiversity and should leverage the most appropriate tools for achieving agreed objectives. Despite this, if demonstrated as appropriate, the expansion of high protection areas in these locations is supported.
24. We note that the proposal includes a gap in marine protection between the proposed Kawau Bay Seafloor Protection Area (SPA) (10a) and the Tāwharanui Marine Reserve at the tip of the Tāwharanui peninsula. This gap appears to include the limited coastal area between Takatu Point (eastern end of Tawharanui Marine Reserve) and Elephant Point on the northern boundary proposed for the Kawau Bay SPA (10a). We suggest the boundaries of the proposed SPA be extended to meet the existing marine reserve, while acknowledging that this may have an unassessed impact on rock fishing from this promontory.
25. Waiheke Local Board support the proposed Ōtata / Noises Islands HPA (14) and request that DOC continue to recognise and accommodate the local nature and relationships of the Noises Trust and partners.
26. Staff note the positive impact of the Ōtata / Noises Islands proposed HPA (14) on seabird colonies. This is particularly important for local little blue penguin colonies, which typically do not move far from their island colony for feeding. The islands serve as breeding sites for many seabirds that will benefit from the exclusion of fishing activities, reduction in artificial light pollution and deck strike mortalities. The seabirds in this area include white-faced storm petrels, fluttering shearwaters, diving petrels, pied and spotted shags, white-fronted and Caspian terns.
27. Considering seabird colonies in the extent of other proposed marine protection areas could improve the protection of threatened and at-risk species in the Gulf. For example, the boundaries of the Mokohīnau Islands HPA (8a) could be expanded eastwards for the protection of white-faced storm petrel colonies and up to the shelf break for black petrel foraging grounds. Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island HPA (1) could be enlarged to include Te Hauturu-o-toi, which is home to large numbers of Cook's petrels. Rotoroa Island HPA (4) could be expanded north to cover eastern Waiheke, which hosts two spotted shag colonies, genetically distinct from southern North Island and South Island populations of spotted shags.
28. The package of marine protection proposals generally pre-date an existing proposal for marine protection in northwest Waiheke Island (the proposed Hākaimango-Matiatia marine reserve). This

more recent initiative is adjacent to the nearby proposed Ōtata / the Noises HPA (14). Council supported this marine protection proposal in its submission of March 2022. Staff suggest that DOC (and Fisheries New Zealand) consider the ecological impacts of a cluster of marine protection in this area of the Gulf, and the relative lack of protection across the rest of Waiheke's coastline, and / or other marine habitat types under-represented in the proposed marine protection network.

29. In addition to the proposed Hākaimango-Matiatia marine reserve, there is also interest in expanding broader marine protection initiatives in the Gulf, including around Aotea / Great Barrier Island and Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island. Council requests clarification from DOC (and Fisheries New Zealand) on the potential and process for expanding fit for purpose responses to other areas of concern in the Hauraki Gulf beyond those identified in this updated marine protection proposals.

### **Impacts on Auckland Council**

30. An existing outfall located south of Martin's Bay discharges treated wastewater into the proposed Kawau Bay HPA (10a) via a 500m long pipeline. Watercare Services Ltd, a council-controlled organisation that manages drinking and wastewater services for Auckland, is planning for a second newly-constructed outfall structure to discharge wastewater from an upgraded Snell's Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant by late 2025. This will serve a population expected to increase five-fold by 2050. The inclusion of the outfall area in the proposed Kawau Bay HPA (10a) creates potential issues relating to the renewal of future consents and potentially the ongoing operation and maintenance of the discharge of wastewater at the consented outfall, as "discharge of sewage from outfalls" is proposed to be prohibited in HPAs.
31. Watercare operates a second outfall pipeline at Army Bay that extends 1000 metres into the proposed Tiritiri Matangi SPA (11b). The marine protection proposal does not expressly state that wastewater discharges are prohibited in SPAs, and it should be made clear that the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure will not be prohibited in SPAs where those activities involve seafloor disturbance. The pipeline raises concerns about the impact of the proposal on required upgrades and maintenance to piped infrastructure where those activities involve seafloor disturbance, and where environmental effects have or will be assessed under resource management legislation.
32. The lack of clarity around the relationship between protection areas and wastewater service provisions in Auckland could be addressed through specific provisions for 'specified infrastructure', as defined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill. Staff acknowledge that infrastructure qualifiers (i.e. essential, specified, specific) have varying legal interpretation implications under the various legislative provisions. We would encourage DOC to liaise with other central government agencies on the correct terminology to use for this context.
33. The definition of 'other potentially harmful substances' could have implications for the management of stormwater discharges that can contain suspended contaminants, such as sediment, nutrients, heavy metals, or hydrocarbons. Clarification is needed from DOC on the definition of potentially harmful substances and the implication on council functions.
34. Auckland Council administers several regional parks and popular sites that adjoin the proposed protected areas and offer recreational activities such as water sports, small boating, recreational fishing, and swimming. These include:

- a. Shakespear Regional Park adjacent to the proposed Tiritiri Matangi SPA (11b)
  - b. Tāwharanui Regional Park adjacent to the proposed Kawau Bay SPA (10b)
  - c. Scandrett Regional Park adjacent to the proposed Kawau Bay HPA (10a)
  - d. Mahurangi Regional Park (East) adjacent to the proposed Kawau Bay HPA (10a)
  - e. Martins Bay Holiday Park adjacent to the proposed Kawau Bay HPA (10a)
35. The establishment of marine protection next to existing parkland managed for conservation and recreational purposes is considered beneficial as it provides opportunities to improve ecological connectivity, function and significance across both environments, or simply to aid public access and to experience natural environment opportunities, whether on land or sea.
36. The proposal has the potential to increase visits to proposed protected areas and may have implications for visitor infrastructure, including boat ramps and jetties, as used by both recreational and commercial interests. Staff request that DOC monitor visitation numbers to the proposed protected areas over time to proactively identify upward trends that may require new or upgraded infrastructure. Funding from DOC is requested for any necessary upgrades resulting from the proposals (e.g. toilets, changing rooms, provision of water supplies, parking, coastal erosion measures).
37. Staff request that DOC monitor the effectiveness of the proposed protection areas, particularly the HPAs, to ensure that their objectives are being achieved. Staff note that seabird populations provide a useful indicator of marine ecosystem health and could be considered as one means to track success. Monitoring of the HPAs should contribute to a review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the network in promoting ecosystem restoration and wildlife protection, as well as to assess the impacts of fisheries displacement to other areas of the Gulf.
38. The proposal has no apparent conflict with or significant impact on the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) or council monitoring programmes. However, staff question the duplication of restrictions on activities administered under resource management legislation, particularly where appropriately controlled and assessed through existing legislative avenues that can be refined over time.

## **Approach to providing for customary practices in HPAs**

39. Staff support the provisions for customary practices in HPAs, provided that DOC adequately support and involve mana whenua to determine the appropriate approach to desired outcomes for both mana whenua and DOC. Staff acknowledge the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki and support the views of mana whenua on how the provision of customary rights should be considered in areas where biodiversity outcomes have been identified.

## **Extending Existing Marine Reserves**

40. Council supports the preferences of mana whenua on the designation for the extensions of Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) and Cape Rodney-Okakari Point marine reserves.
41. However, staff note a lack of recognition for Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Marine Reserves Act (1971) and its misalignment with current marine protection planning objectives. A review of the Marine

Reserves Act to incorporate better provision for mana whenua interests may be more efficient for national application than bespoke Hauraki Gulf specific legislation as proposed. Further, recognition of the flexibility of fisheries regulatory provisions to achieve similar outcomes could be considered as an alternative avenue to effectively create a buffer zone extension to existing marine reserves.

## **Future Considerations for Marine Protection in the Gulf**

42. Council has recommended that seabirds be included as highly mobile fauna in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB), which is pending gazettal. In addition, broader based initiatives for seabirds will need to be pursued through the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, including mitigations and other measures to reduce bycatch from recreational fishers.
43. Staff note an interest by Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board in an increased focus on marine biosecurity in future marine protection approaches in the Gulf, due to the ongoing impacts of the invasive exotic seaweed, *Caulerpa brachypus*. Council operates numerous programmes to enhance marine biosecurity under the Biosecurity Act (1993), including a Proactive Education and Enforcement Programme, Island pest monitoring, and hull inspections and notes this as an area for continued attention in the future.



## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 9:49 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Feedback on marine protection proposals that aim to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Hauraki Gulf Marine Park - The Last Fish - Mama Fish submission to DOCs proposal to Revitalise the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Hello,

Please find attached the submission to DOC's proposal to Revitalise the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Name: s 9 (2)(a)  
Organisation: Mama Fish - this submission reflects the views of the entire organisation

s 9 (2)(a)

Cheers,

s 9 (2)(a)

Mobile: s 9 (2)(a)

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

# The Last Fish

The Mama Fish submission to the Department of Conservation's  
proposal to Revitalise the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.



s 9 (2)(a)

On Behalf of Mama Fish

October 2022

This is the Mama Fish submission to Department of Conservation's proposal to Revitalise The Hauraki Gulf.

- Mama Fish's position is that this proposal does not go far enough. Mama Fish calls for 5 years no take from the Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf, followed by licencing to fish, similar to New Zealand's fresh water fishing management through Fish & Game.
- Mama Fish calls for fully protected, no take marine reserves. Customary harvesting allowance for iwi will aggravate social issues and promote the use of resource spent in court proceedings. Clear no-take zones make harvesting boundaries unquestionable for all peoples.
- Mama Fish calls for zero seafloor disturbance within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. There is no evidence that seafloors recover from seabed trawling or mining.
- Mama Fish calls for zero commercial fishing within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

**Below are the key Department of Conservation proposals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, with Mama Fish's direct responses.**

- **12 High Protection Areas (HPAs):** These will protect and enhance marine communities, ecosystems, and habitats. HPAs will provide for the expression of customary practices by mana whenua. This means customary practices can continue in HPAs, through existing regulatory arrangements, in a way that is consistent with the area's biodiversity objectives. – **Mama Fish does not agree that HPA's will provide strong enough protection for important marine ecosystems. Customary rights for Iwi will aggravate society, between groups within Iwi (who has claim to the whenua?) and outside of Iwi, (Iwi taking animals from a sacred area).**
- **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. **Mama Fish calls for zero disturbance of the seafloor in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.**
- **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. **Mama Fish calls for recognition of the proposed Waiheke Island marine reserve to be included in the proposal. Mama Fish calls for the Cathedral Cove and Cape Rodney marine reserves to be no-take zones with no customary harvest available. Provision for additional no-take marine reserves to be included in the proposal.**

**The below essay is included in the Mama Fish submission**

Bright blue waters sparkle in front of a spectacular volcanic cone, rising between islands. Gentle waves lap on golden sandy beaches. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is an aquatic playground for 2 million New Zealanders, nestled next to New Zealand's largest city. It's hard to believe that hiding in this paradise, beneath the surface, is a decimated marine landscape. Choking with silt and plastic, overfished and under protected. With less than 1% (only 0.3%) full protection, many Aucklanders would have no idea that the Hauraki Gulf is legally designated a marine park.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park extends over 1.2 million hectares, from Mangawhai in the north to Waihi Beach in the Coromandel south, capturing Great Barrier Island and all the water and islands into the Waitemata Harbour and Firth of Thames. There are more than 50 islands within the park; most are now pest-free. Twenty percent of the world's sea-bird population (Gaskin & Rayner, 2013) reside in or pass by the Gulf. Six marine reserves and 25% of marine mammals from the Southern Hemisphere resident here.



Figure 1. Map showing Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Source: Seachange.org.nz

DNA and carbon dating of hangi pits found under the Devonport Naval Museum carpark suggest people have been living in Devonport, and therefore, potentially the Hauraki Gulf since 1350AD (Campbell, Plowman, Brooks, Cruikshank, Furey, Horrocks & Walter, 2018). From 1350, Māori cleared the ancient forests around the peninsular for market gardening on the productive volcanic soil. The hangi pits show moa and fish were bountiful. Within 100 years of human's arriving, moa were extinct. Te Hau Kapua-Devonport is one of the earliest recorded Māori settlements in Aotearoa, New Zealand. It is a place that is ancestrally significant to Ngati Whatua, Ngati Paoa, Te Kawerau a Maki, Ngati Maru and Ngati Tai ki Tamaki.

The earliest recorded European history of fishing in the Hauraki Gulf is when Captain James Cook stopped at 'Bream Bay'. Cook wrote on 24th November 1769, that his crew immediately line-caught ninety to one hundred 'bream' likely to have been snapper or terakihi (Beaglehole, 1955, p. 210), possibly the dominant species and no doubt an important food resource for the local people. Now approaching 700 years later, and 250 years after Cook first visited, some key fish stocks are depleted by 80% or more (MacDiarmid, McKenzie & Abraham, 2016).

A few months after the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, the capital of New Zealand moved from the Bay of Islands to the Waitemata. Pautone, a northern chief, married a woman from Ngati Paoa, who in 1840 sold 9,500 acres of the North Shore isthmus to the Crown. Europeans then began settling in Te Hau Kapua, Auckland's North Shore.



Figure 2. Joseph Banks bartering with a Māori for a lobster. Watercolour and pencil by Tupaia, Captain Cook's Polynesian navigator, 1769.

Māori traded dried marine fish with inland villages in exchange for alternative resources and later to early European settlers. Brief accounts in Auckland newspapers at the time, talk about fish being brought in from the Gulf by canoe. The trade was not insignificant for Auckland's relatively small population, with a reported 27 tons during the first six months of 1854. These canoe landings included oysters (Johnson 2004) at sixpence per platted flax kit, containing four to five hundred oysters.

Colonial Government Commissioners of the 1860's were concerned that "too few people were employed in fishing on a regular basis". The Marine Department was established in 1866 under which the Fish Protection Act was passed in 1877. The department managed the conflict of 'too few people in the fishing industry to reliably satisfy public demand' vs the need to 'learn more about the seasonal distribution and habits of Aotearoa New Zealand's fish species'. Fishing techniques at this time would have been hand lines, set nets, estuary/river mouth seines, and nets in general.

Through the 1870s and 1880s the government gave bonuses for exporting fish. The local catch tended to be dried, smoked or pickled to preserve the snapper, mullet and hapuka. Refrigeration technology was yet to be invented. Therefore, international fish trade was through canneries and cured fish. Surprisingly large quantities of salmon, kippers and sardines were imported from Europe and North America (Paul, 2014). During the global economic depression of the 1880s, the Fisheries Encouragement Act of 1885 promoted the establishment of 'fishing townships' (Sherrin, 1886). Export tallies in 1895 recorded 4,000 cwt (200t) of fish exports left the Auckland region. The main species being landed at the time were snapper, gurnard, kahawai, mullet, and flatfish. There was also a large trade in rock oysters. A new regulation under the Fisheries Conservation Act 1895 established a minimum size for 20 fish species.

Refrigeration was used towards the end of the 1800s for the meat export trade. This new technology was also a great advantage to the fishing industry. Refrigeration provided a shore-based supply of ice for fishing boats, enabling fish to be kept fresh when being transported from ports to inland centres such as Hamilton.



*Figure 3. 18,000 fish in Sanford's Thames Fish Yard in October 1905. Photo by A E Court.*

Hand lines were primarily used for fishing, and this method was enough to over-supply fish (most likely snapper) during the height of the spawning (and schooling) season. Steam trawlers and refrigeration began to be used by commercial fishermen in the 1890s. The government began funding exploratory

trawling surveys in 1901 and 1907 to understand the potential for the export industry and to gain some knowledge of the fish populations. The first commercial fishing steam trawler in the Hauraki Gulf was 'Minnie Casey' in 1899 (Paul, 2014). Minnie Casey's instant success upset amateur (recreational) fishermen and old-style commercial fishermen who soon opposed "the rapid diminution of snapper arising out of the wholesale destruction caused... by trawling" (Hefford, 1929). Soon afterwards, in 1902, protests flared, so the government prohibited trawling for much of the inner and central Gulf. Closing this productive fishing ground tested 'Minnie Casey's owners who were caught trawling in the area and were subsequently prosecuted. 'Minnie Casey' stopped trawling in 1904. Restrictions eased in 1907 but trawling ceased in the Hauraki Gulf until 1915. From 1915, four steam trawlers began operating in the Gulf, with a catch equalling that of southern New Zealand fisheries.

Oil engines became a feature on small fishing boats from around 1900. Previously fishing boats had travelled under sail, making them weather dependent and slower. Between 1904 and 1915 there were up to 450 registered boats at Hauraki Gulf ports of which approximately 90% had fishing licences. From 1904 fish mongers began limiting the number of fish they would accept. In effect, industry led restrictions on seasonal harvests. This continued for most of the 1900s (unpublished Fisheries Inspectors reports, and Johnson 2004).

1912 saw long-line fishing being adopted for its improved efficiency (Hefford, 1929). The Danish seiners and trawler fleets had the most impact on commercial fishing productivity. Despite the Depression, accounts of snapper catch increased through the 1930s as steam trawlers continued fishing and the Danish seiner fleet increased. Danish seiners were given seasonal limits during the peak season because the supply was too great for the fish mongers and processors to cope with. Eventually an export market was found for high quality whole snapper to Japan.



At about this time green-lipped mussel beds covered up to 1,500 sq.km of the Hauraki Gulf. Their abundance made people think they were inexhaustible. Commercial extraction began in 1910 with up to eight boats towing 2-3 m wide steel dredges, to supply mussels to the domestic markets, mainly in Auckland.

Figure 4. Mussel dredge 1960's (note the size of the mussels!). Photograph by Jack Strongman. Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19371110-49-4

Other impacts on fishing included the enlisting of men from 1914-1919 for World War I. There was a post war recovery and as the technology used by commercial fishers improved and became more efficient at catching fish, the conflict between recreational and commercial fisheries increased. Powered vs unpowered, lines vs nets vs Danish seine vs single then pair trawlers. Success in catching snapper using the Danish seining method, particularly during the spring schooling season, saw its rapid adoption after its introduction in the Hauraki Gulf in 1923. Smaller steam trawlers were becoming less economic, so adopting seine fishing methods allowed them access to the inner Gulf. In the 1923/24 season, seining was so successful they caught more snapper than the market could handle (Hefford 1929). The shock brought about the closure of the Firth of Thames to Danish seining in January 1924, but the fishing industry had adrenalin for this new efficient method. Data from the 1920s suggests that snapper catches in November, December and January were two or three times higher than in other months (Hefford, 1924). Twenty-two seiners were working by the end of 1924 and over thirty by the 1930s. Traditional line and net fishermen were not happy, and they increasingly voiced their concerns about the depleting snapper stocks. Subsequently the larger boats (over 15m) could only use this fishing method on the outer reaches of the Gulf.

The harvest of snapper declined during WWII. The navy took over the steam trawlers and the Hauraki Gulf was mostly closed for reasons of national defence. German vessels had been in New Zealand waters in 1940 and the New Zealand armed forces laid ocean minefields from 1942-43. Men went to war and wartime shortages delayed boat repairs and the replacement of gear. Steam trawlers headed off to fish again during the post-war recovery. However, this was short lived when from 1948 the snapper catch dropped 50% over the next few years. By the end of WWII, approximately one third of New Zealand's commercial catch was from the Hauraki Gulf. Motorised trawlers didn't start operating in the Hauraki Gulf until after WWII. Steam trawling and Danish seine were becoming less economic and many Danish seine boats were converted to small stern trawlers. By the 1950's the decrease in mussel populations in the Gulf was also noticeable. However, fishery managers thought dredging would stimulate mussel growth, and reefs would recover if they were given a break, but temporary closures and fewer mussel harvesting boats still have not revived the Gulf's seafloor still to this day. Today, decades later, the floor is still barren.

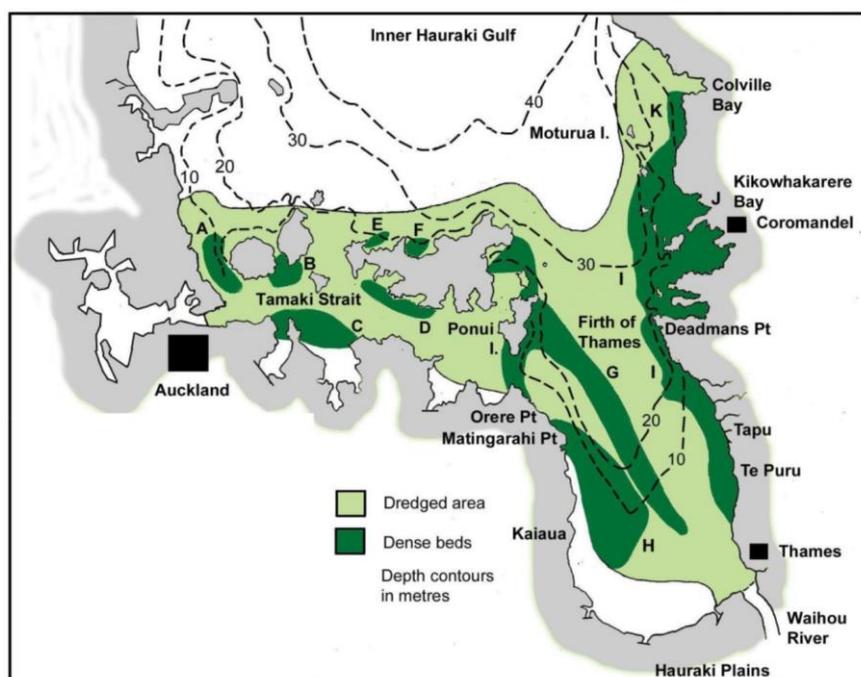


Figure 5. Map of the inner Hauraki Gulf and the Firth of Thames, showing the area worked by the green-lipped mussel dredge fishery and the position of the main mussel beds. L J Paul (2012). Redrawn from Reid (1969).

Hapuka was also once abundant in the inner coastal waters of the Hauraki Gulf. After a century of overfishing, people today believe Hapuka is a deep-water fish. Crayfish were so numerous that generational stories tell of hundreds of antennae sticking out above the water at low tide. They were the dominant species on reefs and are now functionally extinct in the Gulf, meaning they are no longer contributing to the ecosystem. The lack of competition from crayfish has led to the explosion of kina populations, which devour forests of kelp, leaving the underwater ecosystem barren, hence the name 'kina barrens'.



Figure 6. A profitable day's fishing - Hapuka caught outside Auckland Harbour. Year unknown. Photo credit: L. Ludlow.

Throughout the history of commercial fishing in the Hauraki Gulf, snapper continues to be the predominantly landed species. The seasonal snapper harvest of the spring-summer peak became much more pronounced in 1968–69 and following years when Danish seiners adopted a larger and higher-opening net (Paul 1974). Terakihi was the second most common until the 1960s when, due to their decline, trevally became the second most fished species. Trawlers moved away from the Hauraki Gulf in search of terakihi in the Bay of Plenty and East Cape. Kahawai were only landed in any quantity from the late 1970s, likewise mackerel and tuna. Snapper was given a catch quota in 1978 and in 1983 it was declared a controlled fishery (with restricted entry).

The decade 1965-1975 saw a rapid increase of commercial fishing activity attributed to the de-licencing of the fishing industry in 1964. Licences had been difficult to obtain as fishermen held their license as an asset, even after they had ceased active fishing. In 1963 these licences were let lapse, allowing a rush of new fishermen to join the unrestricted industry. These new fishermen had likely been part-time fishers.

A steady increase in harvested snapper that ran from the 1950s then saw peaks and troughs during the 1970s and 1980s. During the 1980s there were several incentives for fishers to include other species in their take. In 1978 quotas had progressively been established for deep-water species and it was evident that this regime would follow through to inshore fisheries. Forward-thinking fishermen began diligently recording their catch history in preparation for future quota allocations. Fishermen began to enlarge their potential quota inventory by broadening the types of fish they caught.

In the early 1980s part-time fishermen were excluded from the New Zealand commercial fishing industry because of their perceived potential to exasperate the problem of an already overfished resource. In 1986 the Quota Management System (QMS) was introduced which immediately removed fishermen who did not have a pre-qualifying catch history from early 1980s. Harvested snapper increased after QMS introduction in 1986 partly due to successful appeals against restrictive ITQs (individual transferrable quotas), followed by another decline when the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for the north-eastern snapper stock was reduced in two stages from 1992 onwards. Over subsequent years many fishermen sold their quota to larger companies and either retired, leased back quotas, or started recreational fishing charters. Because of delicensing, the removal of part-time fishers, and the QMS system, previous vessel numbers and fish catch cannot be compared to catch data post 1970s. The QMS reduced commercial competition and only left ongoing rivalry between recreational and commercial fishermen.

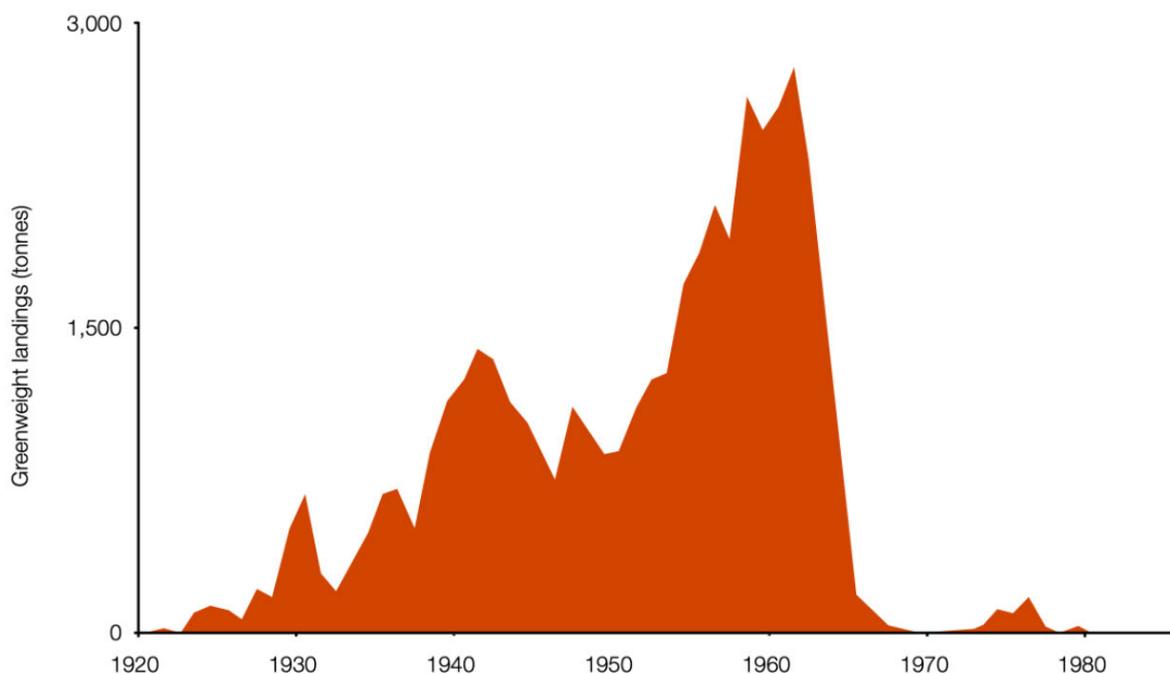


Figure 7. Green weight of mussels extracted from mussel dredging the Hauraki Gulf. L J Paul (2012)

Snapper are an important fishery in the Hauraki Gulf, for both commercial and recreational fishers. There are various ways of determining the stock of a fish. In a 2004-05 aerial observation, vessel count, and boat ramp interviews gave an estimate of 2400t of snapper in the area of SNA 1 – the area of East Northland, Hauraki Gulf and the Bay of Plenty. Approximately 50% of commercial landings were estimated to be snapper (Hartill et al. 2007 a.b.) and almost 60% of the recreational snapper catch came

from the Hauraki Gulf. Later in 2013 it was estimated that 80% of the snapper caught recreationally in SNA1 was caught in the Hauraki Gulf (Hartill et al. 2013, Ministry of Primary Industries 2013).

The question often debated is 'have snapper numbers declined'? Often fish populations are determined by how easy it is to catch each fish type, and this is made more complicated over time as catching methods become more technologically advanced and efficient. Survey data taken from Danish seine fishing boats suggest that snappers population size has not been permanently altered since 1900, but this is potentially unreliable given the fishing method does not consider fish from the seafloor where the larger snapper (50cm and greater) tend to reside. Longlines work close to the seafloor so are more able to catch the largest fish more easily. No long-term research is available for the age of fish. Snapper growth rate is thought to vary, slowing during times of high population density (Walsh et al. 2011). The growth rate of snapper in SNA1 has decreased between 1990 and 2010 indicating a snapper stock rebuild following a reduction in commercial quotas. There is a possibility that as fishing intensified during the 1900s, that the number of fish decreased but their growth rate increased, therefore maintaining the same volume of fish (size structure). The schools of fish could have included large but increasingly younger fish.

In 2000 the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act came into effect. The purpose of the bill was to integrate the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments, to establish the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, to establish management objectives, to recognise relationships with tangata whenua and to establish the Hauraki Gulf Forum (under the umbrella of Auckland City Council). The bill was strongly opposed by Hauraki Iwi who were pursuing a claim to ownership of the Gulf bed and waters through the Waitangi Tribunal. There was also opposition in relation to inadequate representation of Iwi on the Hauraki Gulf Forum (which was resolved). Some private farmers whose land adjoins the Hauraki Gulf opposed the bill for fear of higher compliance costs. Commercial fishing operators in the Gulf also opposed the bill fearing restrictions on operations. The major political parties supported the bill as did environmental advocates and recreational users.



*Figure 8. A recently dredged patch of seabed off the Isle of Arran, Scotland. The furrows generated by the teeth of Newhaven dredges are obvious and give the area a resemblance to a recently ploughed field. Unlike above the water, this will take approximately 100 years or more to regenerate life.*

Every three years the Hauraki Gulf Forum presents an updated State of the Gulf report. The report tends to highlight a continual decline in fish populations and deterioration of the Gulf' marine ecosystem in general. The Forum is not in a position of power but does collaborate with entities. In 2016, after three years of collaboration with 14 key stakeholders, the Hauraki Gulf Forum presented the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan, otherwise known as the Seachange Plan to Parliament. It was rigorously discussed, negotiated, and agreed across the broad range of stakeholders. The plan contained a set of proposals for improving the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The group represented mana whenua, environmental groups, and the fishing, aquaculture, and agriculture sectors. The plan included proposals for: marine protection and fisheries management; habitat restoration; catchment management; localised co-management; opportunities for economic development. Two years later, in November 2018, the Government announced it would develop a response strategy to the Sea Change plan's conservation and fisheries proposals. Three years later in 2021, the government responded with a very weak, watered-down response in a document titled 'Revitalising the Gulf'. The Hauraki Gulf Forum, in a politically correct fashion, welcomed this positively as 'at least the government has responded'. Other groups in the sector were outraged but its lack of support for the Sea Change document, and the disappointing lack of strength for the protection of the Gulf.

Today the Hauraki Gulf has threats greater than fishing. According to the University of Auckland professor of marine science Dr. Andrew Jeffs, the greatest threat to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is silt. Sediment runoff comes from new subdivisions and building sites, it smothers the marine ecosystem making it devoid of life. Intensive farming in the Hauraki plains feeds silt and excess nitrogen into the Gulf. More comes through erosion from clear felled eroding hill country on the Coromandel. And if this is not enough, rising sea levels are cutting into the land boundaries causing further erosion and sediment.

Auckland city's water infrastructure is failing after decades of underinvestment. With every heavy rainfall, our toilet sewage overflows into our stormwater and runs into our urban streams and onto our beaches, making them unsafe for swimming. Rain washes the streets clean of litter, into our street drains and into the harbour or directly onto our beaches. Bottom floor trawling and dredging still happens in the Marine Park.

Blair Tuke, Olympic sailor and co-founder of LiveOcean sums it up when he says "The Hauraki Gulf used to be one of the great coastal marine ecosystems of the world. Above the waterline it still looks great, but when you go under water, it's a different story. In the inner gulf, the reefs are a patchwork of kina barrens... bare rock where there should be kelp. As you come further into the harbour the effects of sediment on the seafloor and visibility are obvious. The balance has changed, and it's frightening to see this decline."



*Figure 9. Barren sea floor of the Hauraki Gulf. Sub-tidal mussel reefs are now functionally extinct in the Hauraki Gulf. Despite a lack of harvesting pressure for the last 50 years, the damaged reefs have not naturally recovered, and the seabed has changed to mud. Large quantities of fine sediments are also added to the Gulf from forest and land clearance as the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland and Waikato regions have developed urban infrastructure and intensive farming. Photo: Shaun Lee.*

Establishing more marine reserves is one of a range of actions being advocated to ameliorate the Gulf's environmental problems. In fact, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, with their minimal powers, are advocating for 30% marine protection. 'Marine protection' status is different from 'marine reserve' status. People can still fish in 'marine protected' areas. Interestingly, the subject of marine reserves polarises people. Commercial fishing interests are usually against any restrictions on where they may fish, recreational fishers are often equally suspicious, and Iwi don't want to give the government any more ownership of the land and water, than the government already has.

National Parks encompass almost 11% of New Zealand's land mass, while marine reserves protect only 3.5% of New Zealand's mainland coastal waters (some 612km<sup>2</sup>). In the Hauraki Gulf, marine reserves make up just 0.3% of the Marine Park, although, like other parts of New Zealand, lesser levels of protection are in place for large parts of it, including cable zones where anchoring and fishing is prohibited and the inner Gulf's trawler exclusion zone.

Marine reserves may not be the only answer to fisheries management however, they do have a valuable role to play in preserving species diversity and providing refuges for marine creatures vulnerable to fishing. In some instances, they act as reproductive reservoirs from which fish and other marine creatures can spread out into surrounding waters, though whether that benefits the fishery in any meaningful way is unclear. Perhaps the existing marine reserves are too small and too few to make any real difference?

What is clear is the dramatic difference in biodiversity and abundance within New Zealand marine reserves according to well-studied cases such as Goat Island Marine Reserve north of Auckland. Biodiversity is desirable, the argument for more marine reserves is strong. The debate around marine reserves is tied up with other concerns around fisheries, the marine environment, access to marine resources, governance, and sovereignty.

Legasea is the well organised recreational fishing group. Legasea and the Hauraki Gulf Forum have quoted some shocking statistics, showing a continual decline in the Hauraki Gulf's marine ecology. Legasea's latest fisheries management submission, Rescue Fish, condemns the QMS, calling for a holistic solution to remedy depleted fish stocks and address environmental damage. Legasea proposes the government to buy up the quotas and then re-issue licences. Eric Roy, the National Party MP who pushed the QMS through parliament says no government will buy up the quotas. Roy says the QMS was never meant to be a stagnant piece of legislation. It was meant to be adjusted as time went on. Rescue Fish has a goal to restore coastal fish stocks and revitalise New Zealand's commercial fishing sector, today owned by just a handful of corporate entities, some with Iwi ownership. Legasea have invested a lot of time into improving New Zealand's marine ecology, basing their conclusions and recommendations on stakeholder consultation, rigorous research, and statistical evidence. However, they don't support marine reserves.

Besides activist groups and reluctant politicians, groups are doing good work in the Gulf. Since 2013, more than 150 tonnes of the green-lipped shellfish have been placed in the Hauraki Gulf and Marlborough Sounds in the hope that new beds will revive ecosystems by removing suspended sediments from water columns and encourage the return of marine life ranging from microscopic worms to large fish species. World-first research conducted by Auckland University Marine Science Department Dr. Jenny Hillman and PhD student Mallory Sea has revealed that mussels enhance denitrification by filtering out harmful nitrogen. This could help mitigate a big horticultural and agricultural problem of eutrophication from leached nitrogen. "Eutrophication can be really detrimental, and so showing that something like mussels can help with that is really important," says Dr. Hillman.

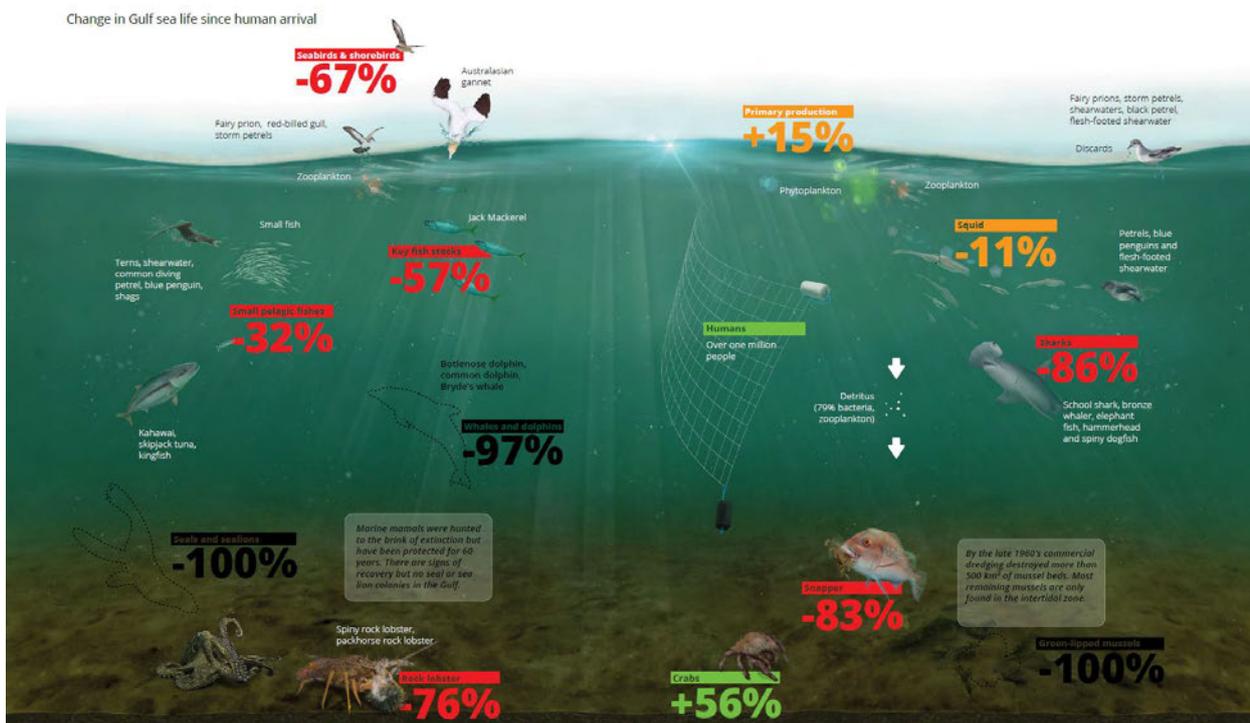


*Figure 10. Nitrogen removal rates are consistent despite patchiness in restored beds of green-lipped mussels, highlighting the upscaling-role of mussels in seafloor biogeochemistry. Photo credit: Dr. Jenny Hillman*

Centuries of exploitation and neglect bring us to a point today of a dying marine ecosystem in our aquatic garden, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Commercial fishing needs to go, land developers need to control the silt runoff when they scrap the earth, city water governance needs to ensure we have an adequate sewerage system, home and business owners need to check contaminants don't go down the stormwater drains, people need to collect rubbish that has blown into their street gutters, farmers need to reduce nitrogen leaching and prevent erosion on their farms, recreational fishers need to reduce their catch, politicians need to be more environmentally inclined, iwi need to do a better job of defending the environment, more no-take marine reserves are required, the seafloor needs full protection.

**“Be aware the sparkling waters for the desert that lurks beneath.”**

**Karleen Reeve**



**Figure 1.** Pinkerton MH, MacDiarmid A, Beaumont J, et al. Changes to the food-web of the Hauraki Gulf during the period of human occupation: a mass-balance model approach. Wellington: Ministry for Primary Industries; 2015.

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:00 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Personal Submission on Revitalising the Gulf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Personal submission on Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Contact:

s 9 (2)(a)

Residential Address:

Postal Address:

Email:

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission

Hauraki Gulf Forum Reports (2004, 2007, 2020) and indeed public concern, emphasise that the Gulf is ecologically in dire straits. This is a crisis similar to the recent pandemic, particularly in the context of climate change and therefore deserves equally forceful intervention. There have been many years of discussion but insufficient action to meet the crisis. I believe the protections offered by the Revitalising the Gulf document are a start but don't go anywhere near far enough. Instead, I vigorously support the Forum (Report 2020) recommendation of 30% protection.

The recommended HPAs allow Customary Practices which, depending on how mana whenua choose to exercise them (Endnote 1), would make them the equivalent of Marine Protected Areas with limited take (i.e. Type 2 MPAs). Such MPAs in or near the Gulf have been shown to be ineffective and we know do not work. The Poor Knights, for example, were a limited take area for 50 years with no real improvement, until becoming a true marine reserve and Mimiwhangata, a bay in Northland monitored by Dr Roger Grace for 40 years, with no real improvement.

The 2017 SeaChange: Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan, itself warns: "Partial protection, where some forms of fishing are still permitted, does not allow such population recovery. For example, at the Mimiwhangata MPA, "commercial fishing (was) excluded but recreational fishing (was) permitted. Surveys showed that snapper numbers were no greater inside the Park than outside, and in fact were the lowest recorded for all of the areas surveyed (Denny & Babcock, 2004)".

On the other hand full no-take marine reserves have been shown to have benefits for the surrounding areas. Marine reserve produces significant benefits for the surrounding area and even beyond. Qu and colleagues in a paper from the University of Auckland state, "Empirical evidence shows that 10.6% of newly settled juvenile snappers sampled up to 55 km outside of the Cape Rodney - Okakari Point (Leigh) marine reserve were the offspring of adult snappers from the marine reserve. This suggests a significant boost to the commercial fishery of \$NZ 1.49 million catch landing value per annum and \$NZ3.21 million added from recreational fishing activity associated spending per annum. These values all come from the recruitment effects associated with one species, from only 0.08% of the marine space in the Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand. The economic valuation of this marine reserve's snapper recruitment effect demonstrated \$NZ 9.64 million in total spending accruing to recreational fishing per annum and \$NZ 4.89 million in total output to commercial fisheries annually.' (Qu et al. 2021)

Converting the SPAs, HPAs and 2PAs to no-take marine reserves would be a start toward fully protecting 30% of the Gulf. As they stand I believe they would only shift fishing effort from one user group to another.

In addition, SeaChange, excluded Waiheke, on the grounds that our community 'was already well advanced with this conversation.' The Hakaimango-Matiatia Marine Reserve initiative is the Waiheke community's response following extensive scientific surveys, and consultation with mana whenua, interest groups and the public consultation receiving high levels of support. (In submissions to the Hakaimango-Matiatia Marine Reserve 93% were in support. Of those 73% of submitters identifying as Māori along with the Ngāti Paoa Trust Board support the application. This marine reserve should therefore be established and included front & centre in the Revitalising the Gulf plan.

New Zealanders are said to value a sense of fair play but while acknowledged to some extent in National Parks and conservation areas ashore, it is not exercised in the marine environment. As high numbers of visitors to some of the marine reserves demonstrate, many New Zealanders would like to see and experience the marine environment in a more "natural" state. Prior to the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992, Maori in a spirit of partnership (and generosity) claimed only 50% of the New Zealand fisheries. If recreational fishers matched that generosity and 50% of the Hauraki Gulf was put in no-take marine reserve it would go a long way toward proper revitalisation.

Yours sincerely

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:02 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf - Marine protection proposal submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

I am getting in touch to provide the following feedback on the Hauraki Gulf marine protection proposal:

- Strongly support the extension of the two marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act 1971 (not as a High Protection Area around the existing marine reserves).
- Strongly support the establishment of the 12 proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs). This as a crucial first step towards revitalising the Gulf and developing a comprehensive network of highly protected areas.
- Supports the proposed Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs), but suggest that these areas be considered and incorporated as part of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan in order to protect a much larger proportion of the Gulf from bottom-impact fishing.

While there is a long way to go in restoring the Gulf, I'm confident that these changes will be a great start to this process.

Many thanks,  
s 9 (2)(a) (PhD candidate at University of Auckland)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:03 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Te Whanganui a hei Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve Extension

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi there,

I am writing with regard to your proposal for an extension to the Marine Reserve at Cathedral Cove/Hahei on the Coromandel Peninsula.

Our family are long time owners of s 9 (2)(a) and generations of our family having been going there for well over 50 years.

Whilst, in principle, we do not disagree with the Marine Reserve and agree it protects our coastline for the future, I am struggling to understand why half of Hahei Beach has to be included in this extension. Hahei is an extremely popular beach throughout the year and particularly in summer and I do not understand to need to include a large section of the beach in the Reserve. Does it mean that nothing, including dog walking/shell collecting by kids can be done on this section of the beach?. The beach needs to not be included in the Reserve. Why would you not just take the Reserve point from the existing point at the northern end of the beach, from the rocks , then forming a line out to Mahurangi Island, therefore excluding the beach in its entirety. I see no need to include the beach which sees a lot of tourists and locals and would be extremely difficult to police a Marine Reserve.

I would also think that a future proofing alternative would be to install another Marine Reserve further north along the coastline so that over time, in years to come there is a whole coastline as a Marine Reserve, instead of purely concentrating on one area, ie Hahei/Cathedral Cove.

Hahei is also an extremely popular destination for families etc and we have noticed an increased in marine life, ie sharks etc since the Marine Reserve has been in place over the last few years and making it a lot larger area in this very popular destination is only going to increase the number of sharks therefore endangering life in a spot that sees a large number of swimmers/ water skiers/kayaks etc. Implementation of an alternative area further up the coast would also alleviate this issue which leads to a concentration of marine life, including sharks.

Therefore, please reconsider the inclusion of the actual beach in this extension to the existing Marine Reserve in order to allow a continuation of a practical use of the beach to all locals and tourists. Also consider keeping the existing reserve as it is and instead starting an alternative Reserve further up the coast in an alternative location.

This is a better use of resources to future proof the area for future generations, marine and people and allows the beach to continue to be used as it is today. Please allow practical solutions to be considered!

We look forward to a positive outcome of this submission and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:07 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Full support for the Hauraki Gulf MPA proposal

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in full support of the Hauraki Gulf MPA proposal. This area has been devastated by exploitative activities (especially trawling), yet here is an outstanding opportunity for protection and restoration; to reverse these impacts before they become increasingly permanent. New Zealand has failed miserably to reach the pledged 20% protection by 2020, and may miss the 30% by 2030 unless we take every (limited) opportunity, such as this, to establish further MPAs.

**These protected areas will not only help to ensure that commercial fishing can continue well into the future, but also are an incredible opportunity to research and quantify their benefits, not only for fish stocks but also for habitat quality, community diversity and ecosystem services. A healthier ecosystem can cope with more stressors, and for coastal systems, even sequester more carbon. New Zealand and DOC could be a world leader in the way we manage and study our ecosystems!**

**The design around the Noises, Hauturu and Mokohinau Island is impressive, but the entire proposal still only covers approximately 12% of the gulf. Therefore what is being proposed is the bare minimum that is required. Reducing trawling is an absolute no-brainer. Evidence shows that the existing reserves at Leigh and Hahei are not large enough to effectively protect our Rock lobster and Snapper, and by proposing to extend them not only amplifies their effects, but it also demonstrates the ecological expertise of the designer.**

I am currently studying a MSc in Marine Science, and I can't help but feel disappointed with the decisions made by Government, but the Department of Conservation. When I was younger, I looked up to you. I wanted to be a ranger and work with people who truly valued the incredible land and seascapes and Aotearoa. But now I've learned of multiple occasions where you've failed to make ecologically-representative, meaningful choices— even when presented with copious scientific evidence. The current state of the Hauraki Gulf is screaming the need for action, now. The pressures and damage sustained by the natural environment are only going to increase with time. You have to be brave enough to value the ecological integrity of tomorrow beyond that of marginal economic, shoot-yourself-in-the-foot profits today. You have to be brave enough to be prepared to actually be 'clean and green', rather than just hide inaction with a superficial marketing ploy.

**I want us kids to hear a rare good news story, a win for nature, but this time for the Hauraki Gulf that is degrading before our eyes. Please, please live up to your name, and make a brave, but much needed and inspirational decision. It shows us that progress is truly possible**

Sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:17 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the gulf submission.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

In 2021, refined after engagement with 28 iwi and two iwi collectives, DOC has released a plan to establish 19 new protected zones in the Hauraki Gulf.

There are no new "no take areas" (the ultimate protection, as in marine reserves).

Fourteen of the 19 zones are "high protection areas", so presumably the other five are "seabed protection areas".

The high protection areas will allow "customary take" rights exclusive to Maori and at their discretion.

While any increased protection is better than none, as usual it is two steps forward, one step back, as is often the case under this government.

First up, let us acknowledge the treaty, as we always must these days.

This decision contradicts the TOW, not to mention the NZ Bill of Rights in that it disregards "nga tikanga katoe rite tahi- equal rights for all".

Where was the pre-planning consultation with non- Maori groups that make up the greatest proportion of the population?

Giving latitude to one group on purely racial grounds is not the way to bring the population with you on reforms such as this.

Call me a cynic, but based on past behaviours, I have no faith Maori will make responsible environmental decisions.

There will be cases of widespread pillaging of certain desired species such as crayfish, scallops, paua, snapper and others, even to black market sales of excess fish to restaurants that we know has occurred on numerous occasions.

Undersize fish WILL be taken. Will customary take be monitored in ANY way? And no, "it will be policed by the kaumatua" will not cut it.

Already, and alarmingly Ngati Manuhiri have already purchased 3 zodiac runabouts to police this new law, and are already patrolling the gulf to "protect it" in anticipation. And that is just one iwi.

There are no people in New Zealand in this day and age, whose survival depends on hunting and foraging. This is a "customary right", along with warfare, slavery and cannibalism, that has passed into history. It is an anachronism.

All of the designated areas must be "open slather FOR ALL" or "no take FOR ALL".

Any law based on ethnic favouritism is doomed to failure. This is a lesson the government may regret not learning.

You will not get public compliance with a law if the public do not respect it.

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** NZ Fisher s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:31 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on: Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposal  
**Attachments:** 221026.Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals\_Submission.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Recorded

Good morning,

Please find my submission on Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals attached.

Regards,

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

Events, Publishing & Contract Marketing

26/10/2022

Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals submission

s 9 (2)(a) (Individual)

s 9 (2)(a)

RE: Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals

I wish to submit on the Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals.

**My background:**

1. I am a recreational fisher (42years), former executive member and vice-Chair NZ Recreational Fishing Council (2007-2013), executive member and former vice -Chair New Zealand Angling And Casting Association, Founder and former editor of NZFisher magazine (9years), Member FMA Recreational Fishing Forum 2012-2016, former warranted volunteer Fisheries Officer (MPI), former Fisheries spokesperson for Outdoors party 2017 and independent recreational advocacy spokesperson.
2. I have been actively involved in fisheries management and advocacy for 15 years and have seen multiple strategies to enhance, recover and improve the state of Aotearoa fisheries under many Ministers and executives.
3. **The Proposal**
4. Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari – Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change Plan), the raw, grassroots project driven by local bodies, mana whenua, non-commercial and commercial stakeholders reached agreement on a set of wide ranging, hard-fought, and deeply investigated outcomes that many thought would be impossible to align across such a broad stakeholder group.
5. The options provided under the Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals to not adequately reflect the recommendations of the Sea Change report. By progressing only some of the recommendations the outcomes no longer reflect the hard-fought agreement of the Sea Change project. This clearly unbalances the work done by so many to achieve the agreement and once again sets sectors against each other.
6. From the Sea Change report:  
*When fully implemented, the Marine Spatial Plan will improve the health, mauri (life force and vitality), and abundance of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park by:*
  - *Restoring depleted fish stocks and restoring benthic (sea floor) habitats that support healthy fisheries.*
  - *Reducing the impacts of sedimentation and other land-based activities on water quality.*

- *Recognising and protecting cultural values.*
- *Enhancing the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.*
- *Protecting representative marine habitats.*
- *Promoting economic development opportunities for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park while ensuring marine environments are restored.*

7. The Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals as released propose to reduce access to fisheries for predominantly recreational fishers but fails to meet most of the recommendations and goals of the Sea Change project – the very first and probably the most important:

*Transitioning commercial fishing methods that impact benthic habitat (including trawling, Danish seining, and dredging) out of the Hauraki Gulf*

8. By failing to address this significant issue the Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals immediately isolate recreational fishers as the sector who will bare the brunt of these proposals.
9. What appears, from the non-commercial side of the fence, to be happening is displacement of recreational fishing pressure from area's of high productivity to area's of lower productivity for little or no identifiable benefit.
10. This displacement is likely to have two direct outcomes.
- Reduced non-commercial fishing as barriers to sustenance fishing become too high
  - Increased cost to catch a feed for family and friends
11. Once again DoC and MPI are creating tools to manage fisheries which do not fit the purpose. The Quota management system and Fisheries Act are already in place with highly adaptable and explicit tools to manage fishery biomass through input and output tools.
12. If the outcomes of the proposals are to increase biodiversity, stock biomass or generally 'improve the health of fisheries' – the right tools are to be found under the Fisheries Act
13. The Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals encompass more than just 'lock it up' strategies, but these are the only options being proposed. Why are the balance of the proposals being ignored?
14. Under Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposal, peoples aspirations and opportunities to engage with a flourishing eco-system in the Hauraki Gulf are demised in favour of a 'lock-up and ignore the reality of fisheries management' approach.
15. I fully support closing an area for the purpose of eco-system recovery and preservation, but this is **not successful strategy to improve fisheries management outcomes.**

**My Submission:**

- 16. I REJECT the government proposals in favour of 100% seabed protection and more meaningful public consultation**
- 17. I object to the lack of information and detail around the proposal and implementation plan**
- 18. Remove all benthic damaging fishing methods from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park including;**
  - Danish Seining
  - Trawling
  - Scallop (and other) dredging (All sectors)
  - Sediment / sludge dumping
- 19. Enact legislation to add 100% seafloor/benthic protection to the entire Hauraki Guld Marine Park.**
- 20. Empower mana whenua to manage local area fisheries, establish frameworks to encourage Rahui where localised depletion and excessive pressure is detrimental to fisheries.**
  - Approach pragmatically, allowing for low-impact commercial extraction (i.e. long-lining and potting) and low-impact recreational & customary take.
- 21. Reduction in commercial take in keeping with any HPA area's introduction; not on a % or area but % of catch taken from the closed area.**
  - Simply closing an area and not allowing for the impact through catch displacement serves no purpose in fisheries management.
  - Non-commercial fishing is already limited by bag-limits and as HPA's will have the effect of creating dissonance and decreasing engagement in fishing as barriers to entry increase rather than significant displacement.
- 22. I support an integrated approach to managing both conservation and fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, acknowledging marine protection needs to align with fisheries management.**

Thank you for your consideration.

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 10:37 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto: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 enjoy recreational fishing, kayaking, snorkelling. But I've found over the past 20 years there has been a big decline in the numbers of fish.

A lot of work has been done to restore our native forrests and birds, but much less has been done to restore our moana. We need more marine reserves.

I fully support enlarging existing marine reserves and creating new ones, which are close to land. They also need to be policed.

Run off of pollution and sediment from land/rivers/streams needs to be improved so as to protect the ocean/gulf.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 11:01 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Attachments:** FoTMR HG marine protection Submission Oct 2022.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission (attached).

s 9 (2)(a)

Chair, Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve Trust

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Dive virtually into our local [Taputeranga marine reserve](#)  
Celebrating 14 years - 2008 to 2022



s 9 (2)(a)  
Mobile: s 9 (2)(a)



[www.taputeranga.org.nz](http://www.taputeranga.org.nz)

s 9 (2)(a) Chair

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)

27 October 2022

## RE: Revitalising Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Proposals Submission

The Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve Trust (the Trust) was formed in October 2009 to help realise the full range of potential benefits of Taputeranga Marine Reserve, involve the community in its future management and support marine protection across in New Zealand. Trustees represent, or have had experience in, marine science, the local community, commercial and recreational diving, central and local government, conservation and marine uses. Our collective expertise gives us credibility to take part in the present consultation on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Proposals.

Our submission represents the views of the entire Trust.

The Trust **supports** the Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals package to establish new marine and seafloor protection areas to help restore the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi. However, we have some concerns and recommendations, namely:

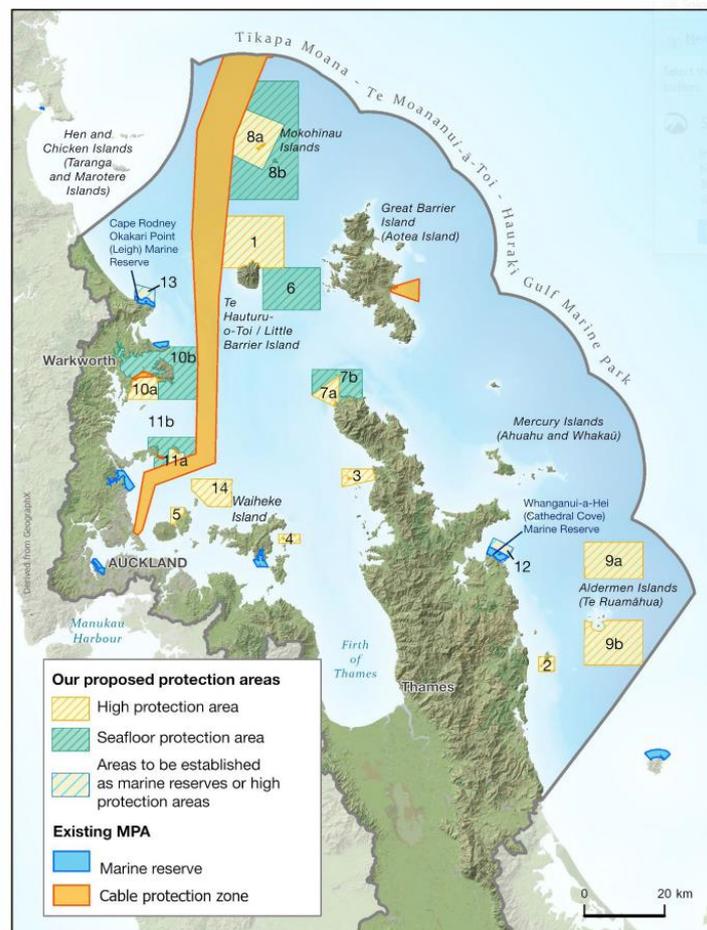
- **12 High Protection Areas (HPAs):** Objective to protect and enhance marine communities, ecosystems, and habitats. The Trust understands that it is envisaged the HPAs will provide for customary practices by mana whenua. This means customary practices can continue in HPAs, through existing regulatory arrangements, in a way that is consistent with the area's biodiversity objectives.
  - The Trust supports the HPAs, but would have preferred the HPAs either be established as fully-protected marine reserves or be established in combination with larger long-term fully-protected marine areas or no-take marine reserves, as research has demonstrated large fully protected marine reserves produce the most benefits for biodiversity, resilience and potential for increased access to target species in surrounding waters<sup>1</sup>. Reduced levels of protection result in reduced conservation

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1 e.g. Kelly et al 2002, Kelly & MacDiarmid 2003, Denny & Babcock 2004, Shears & Usmar 2006, Shears et al 2006, Marine Parks Authority 2008, Ballantine 2014, Costello 2014, Edgar et al 2014, Costello & Ballantine 2015, Lubchenco & Grorud-Colvert 2015, Reuchlin-Hugenholtz & McKenzie 2015, Sala & Giakoumi 2018, Reniel et al 2020, Lenihan et al 2021, LaScala-Gruenewald et al 2021, McClanahan 2021, Qu et al 2021, Allard et al 2022.

outcomes. Large-scale, networked no-take marine protection that includes representative marine and coastal habitats 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.

- Only 0.3% of the Hauraki Gulf is protected in six near-shore no-take MPAs. Even with the proposed extensions to two marine reserves, this will not be sufficient to meet marine protection network design principles.
- Allowing fishing in MPAs has little benefit to populations of exploited species. A 2021 marine survey notes low density of legal-sized reef fish, with reef fish biodiversity assessed as low to moderate; clear impacts from sedimentation across all the survey sites; expansive areas of kina barrens; and very low tipa/scallop density, with only 31 legal-sized individuals encountered over 1 km<sup>2</sup>. Despite high quality habitat for kōura/crayfish and extensive searches, only three kōura/crayfish were observed, and all were below legal size (Haggitt 2021). An earlier study demonstrated an unequivocal example of the recovery of lobster populations in no-take MPAs, but clearly demonstrated that allowing recreational fishing in MPAs has little benefit to populations of exploited species such as crayfish (Shears et al 2006).



- Marine monitoring surveys are part of any comprehensive ecosystem-based management plan. The Trust would like to see a completed comprehensive monitoring framework that includes finalised fisheries indicators and a publicly accessible data management system, regular reporting, regular reviews and what adaptive management will be adopted if the objectives of the HPAs are not being met.

- **5 Seafloor Protection Areas:** Objective to protect sensitive sea floor habitats. The report notes that 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.
  - The Trust supports the proposed Seafloor Protection Areas, however, the Trust believes that trawling and dredging should be prohibited within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park/Ko te Pataka kai o Tīkapa Moana Te Moananui a Toi boundaries.
  - The 2016 Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari report recommended that the Government ‘exclude activities (e.g. dredging, bottom trawling, Danish seining, dumping and sea bed mining) that damage habitats by 2025. We need to start completely phasing out activities like trawling and scallop dredging today; and substantially reduce sediment inputs. There is strong scientific evidence that using bottom trawl gear, especially on biogenic communities, is particularly damaging to those communities (Jones 1992, Macdiarmid et al 2012, Hiddink et al 2017, Steadman 2021). The widespread nature of bottom trawling suggests that fishing is the main anthropogenic disturbance agent to the seabed throughout most of New Zealand’s coastal and deep water sea floor within trawlable depth (Macdiarmid et al 2012). Indeed a number of groups are concerned about destructive fishing practices.<sup>2</sup> And, this is consistent with Hauraki Gulf Forum goals. It is disappointing to just have ‘trawling corridors’ instead of ending high-impact bottom trawling across the Gulf.
  - The Trust would like to see a completed comprehensive monitoring framework that includes finalised sea floor biodiversity and target fisheries indicators and a publicly accessible data management system, and regular reporting and what adaptive management will be adopted if the objectives of the Seafloor Protection Areas are not being met.
- **2 protected areas:** Objective – extension of two marine reserves. 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.
  - The Trust would like to see these extensions be created as fully-protected areas as part of the existing marine reserves, not HPAs.
  - The Trust would like to see a completed comprehensive monitoring framework that includes finalised indicators and a publicly accessible data management system, and regular reporting.
- We commend Ngāti Manuhiri for their leadership purchasing patrol boats and establishing teams of Fisheries Officers, a clear gap that should be filled by central government agencies in other areas of the Hauraki Gulf and across New Zealand. Supporting iwi/hāpu to enforce fisheries in their rohe enables Te Tiriti principles (protection, participation, partnership).
- The Trust would like to see a comprehensive Compliance Law and Enforcement (CLE) plan for the suite of protected marine areas, with regular public reporting and review.

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2 e.g. [LegaSea - Fish for the People](#) - LegaSea’s policy – Remove industrial fishing methods such trawling, seining and dredging from the inshore zone  
 Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust placing a rāhui on the Hauraki Gulf to help scallops and other shellfish regenerate [Kāinga | Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust | Home | Warkworth \(ngatimanuhiri.iwi.nz\)](#)

- The Trust would like to see the Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve established at the same time these proposals are enacted.
- The Trusts notes that the proposed marine protections in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Proposal package do not constitute a comprehensive network. More work needs to be done to improve the conservation areas and create a full network of fully-protected marine areas. There is a highlighted need to urgently progress a network of marine reserves for the Hauraki Gulf.
- The Government should commit to protecting 30 percent of the Gulf in fully protected marine reserves. A survey found that 77% of people supported making 30% of the Hauraki Gulf into marine protected areas (Horizon Research 2021). Therefore, this package still falls short of the majority of peoples wishes.

We hope that the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Proposal package will better achieve the management objectives of the Hauraki Gulf Forum and improve the marine environment for everyone in New Zealand, including visitors. It would be great to see the picture on the right, from the Revitalising Hauraki Gulf report, become true. It is time to act for the benefit of future generations and the mauri of our precious moana.



Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

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

Chair

Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve Trust

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**See also:**

[New study shows seabed trawling releases more carbon dioxide than air travel](#), Stuff, 18 March 2021.

[LegaSea - Fish for the People](#) - LegaSea's policy – Remove industrial fishing methods such trawling, seining and dredging from the inshore zone

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