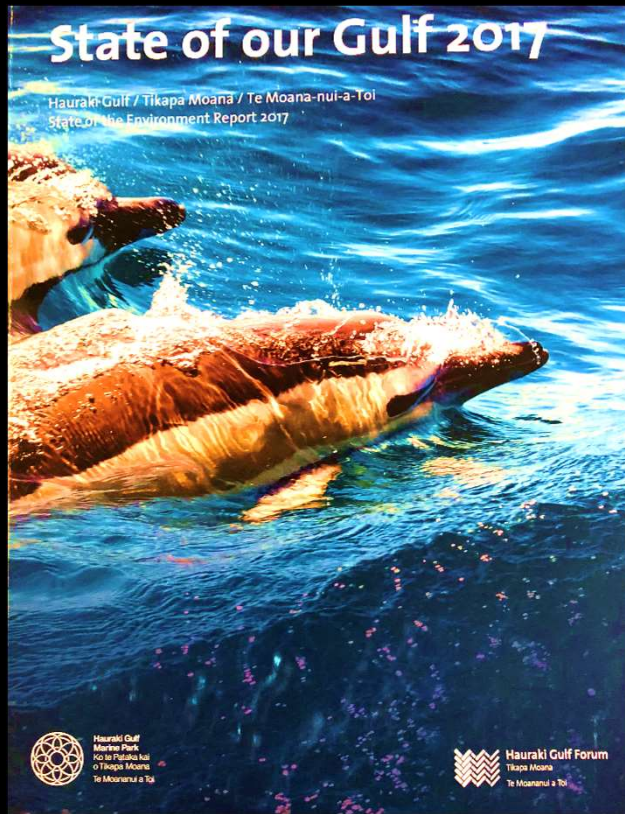


Hauraki Gulf Update



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Hauraki Gulf

Globally significant marine mammal habitat



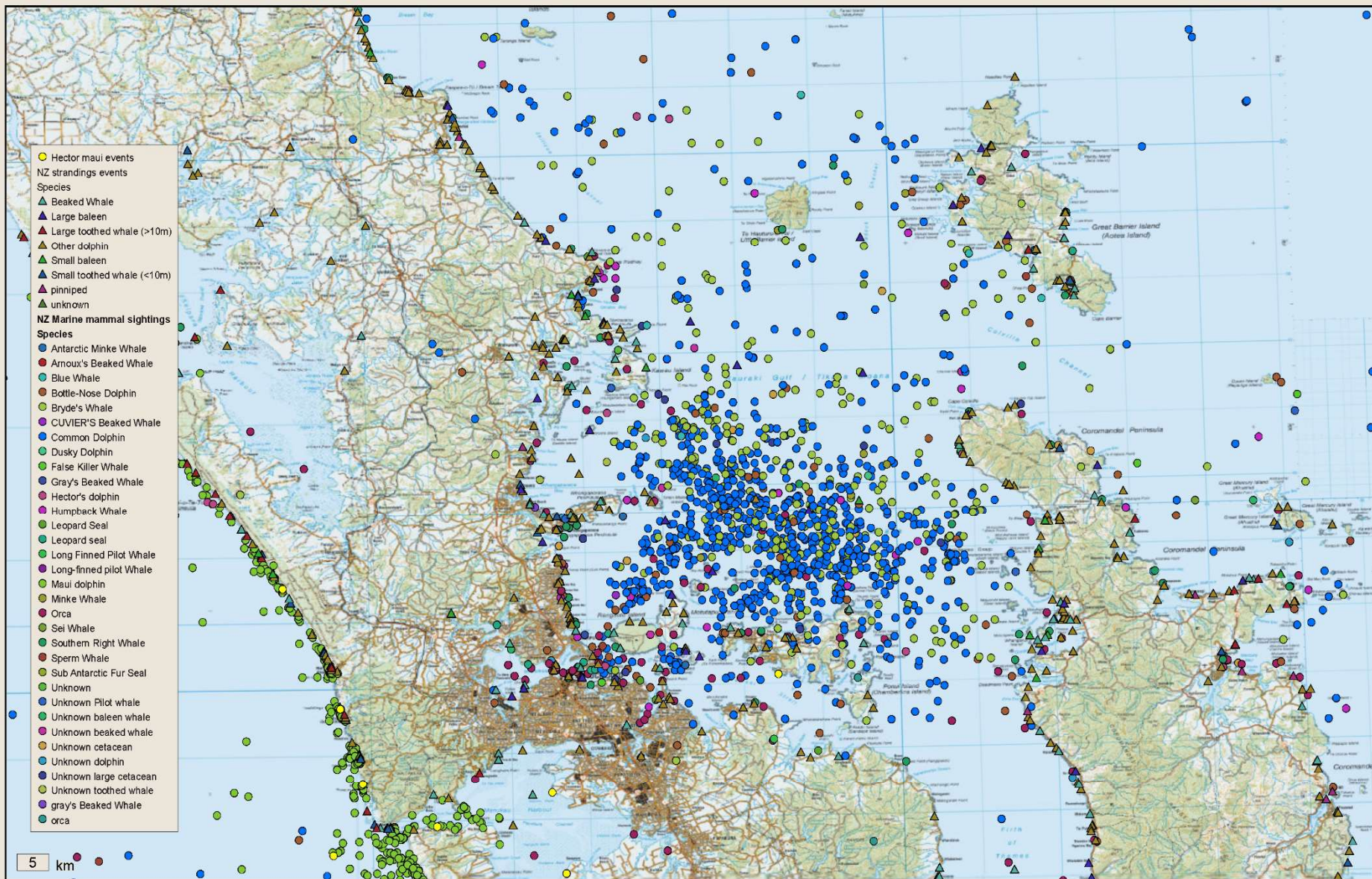
33 species of marine mammals



A third of the world's marine mammal species that visit annually



At least six species of cetaceans are resident



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Mammal stranding and sightings events

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Department of
 Conservation
 Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

Hauraki Gulf

Globally significant seabird & shorebird habitat



Over 70 seabird species – 20% of world's seabird species



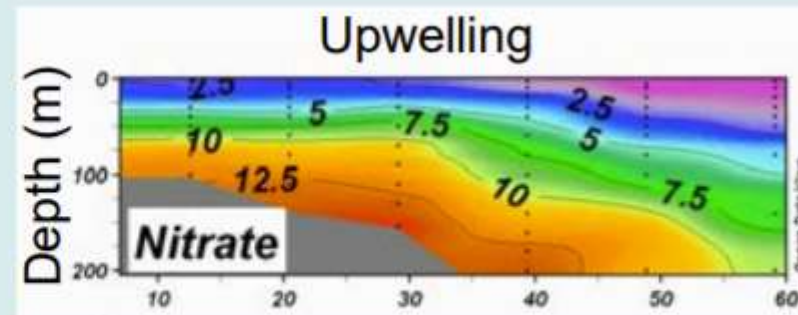
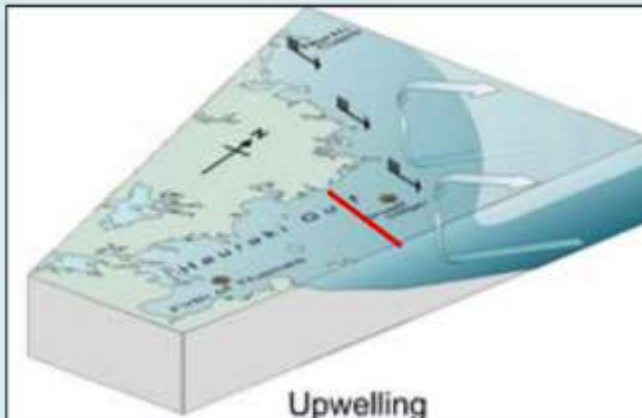
27 seabird species breed in the Gulf, 60% endemic



132 bird species Firth of Thames. 35,000 waders visit each year

Hauraki Gulf

Highly productive marine ecosystem



Hauraki Gulf

Significant range of coastal & underwater habitats



1.2 million hectares of water space, coastal shallows to deep shelf



Complex coastline with 100's of islands - inshore and offshore



Influenced by warm current from Australia – immigrant species

Change in Gulf sea life since human arrival

Seabirds & shorebirds
-67%

Fairy prion, red-billed gull, storm petrels

Australasian gannet

Zooplankton

Primary production
+15%

Fairy prions, storm petrels, shearwaters, black petrel, flesh-footed shearwater

Discards

Phytoplankton

Zooplankton

Small fish

Jack Mackerel

Key fish stocks
-57%

Squid
-11%

Petrels, blue penguins and flesh-footed shearwater

Terns, shearwater, common diving petrel, blue penguin, shags

Small pelagic fishes
-32%

Humans

Over one million people

Sharks
-86%

School shark, bronze whaler, elephant fish, hammerhead and spiny dogfish

Botlenose dolphin, common dolphin, Bryde's whale

Detritus (79% bacteria, zooplankton)

Whales and dolphins
-97%

Kahawai, skipjack tuna, kingfish

Seals and sealions
-100%

Marine mammals were hunted to the brink of extinction but have been protected for 60 years. There are signs of recovery but no seal or sea lion colonies in the Gulf.

Snapper
-83%

By the late 1960's commercial dredging destroyed more than 500 km² of mussel beds. Most remaining mussels are only found in the intertidal zone.

Spiny rock lobster, packhorse rock lobster

Rock lobster
-76%

Crabs
+56%

Green-lipped mussels
-100%



Hauraki Gulf has lots of problems



May 2017

Tai Timu Tai Pari

Sea Change

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

We are slow to sort out the problems



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Revitalising the Gulf

Government action on the Sea Change Plan



Māori Bay Coast Walk. Photo credit Brendan Bombaci.

Government Strategy in response to the Sea Change -
Tai Timu Tai Pari - Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

June 2021



2015 – Public Stakeholder
process

May 2017 –
SeaChange Plan

June 2021
Government Response

6 years!

Government Strategy – 8 elements

1. Fisheries Management

- Formulate a fisheries plan by June 2022 that aims to restore fish abundance within the Gulf, with advice from a stakeholder Advisory group
- Removing some bottom trawling
- Freezing commercial scallop dredging footprint, banning recreational dredges
- More intertidal harvesting controls, e.g. seasonal closures
- Greater mana whenua and regional involvement in fisheries management



Government Strategy – 8 elements

1. Active Habitat Restoration

- Establish a habitat restoration framework in 2021



Mussel beds versus bare seafloor



- 6 times the productivity – same as a rain forest
- 4 times more mobile critters – crabs, worms, snails etc
- 10 times more small and juvenile fish
- 3 times more types of species
- Removes excess nitrogen from the water

- Before 1950's mussels production around 16,000 tonnes of small fish a year
- Now only 20 tonnes of small fish a year

(McLeod et al. 2012, McLeod et al. 2014)

Government Strategy – 8 elements

3. Aquaculture

- Reduce impediments to aquaculture 2023

4. Marine Biosecurity

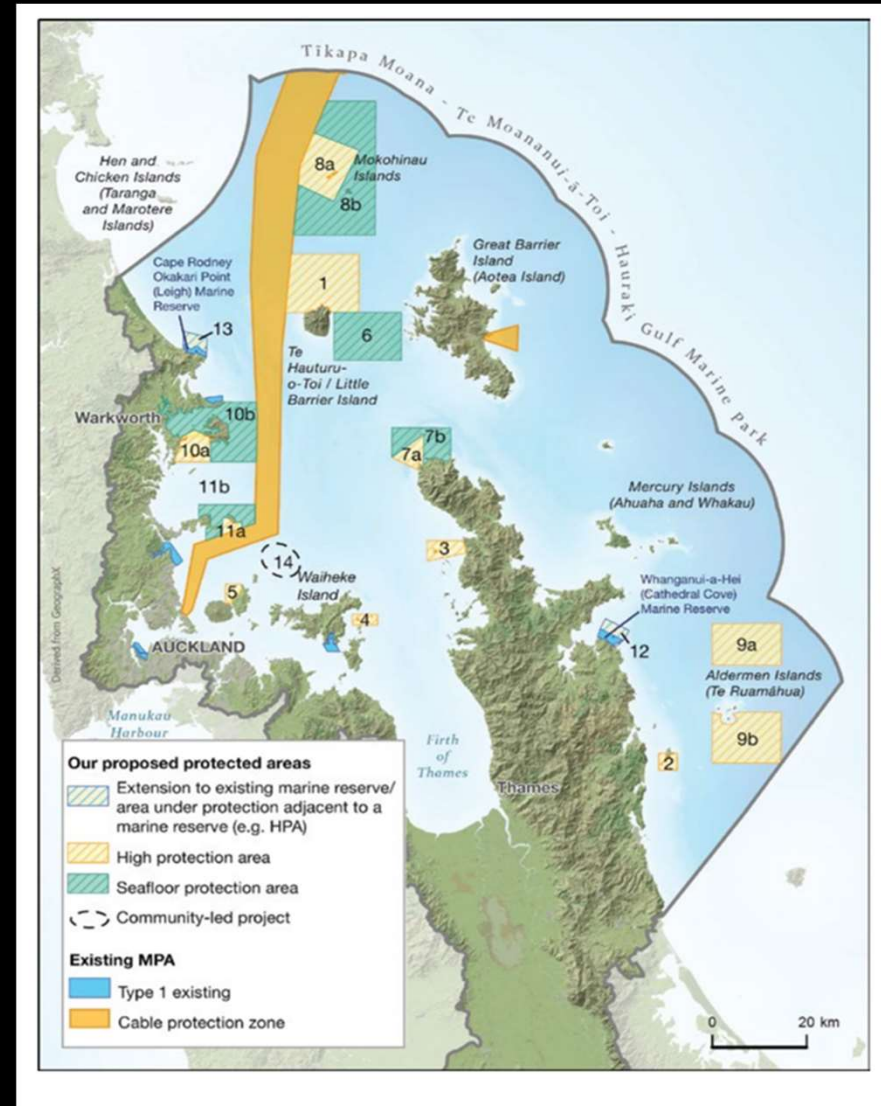
- Support regional marine biosecurity initiatives.



Government Strategy – 8 elements

5. Marine Protection

- 11 new high protection areas – allow customary practices – new laws 2024
- 5 seafloor protection areas
- 2 marine reserve extensions
- Protection from 6.6% to 17.6% of Gulf



Government Strategy – 8 elements

6. Protected Species

- Reducing threats to nesting seabirds on islands
- Improving fishing bycatch measures
- More research and monitoring
- All done in next three years



Government Strategy – 8 elements

7. Ahu Moana

- Pilot projects in 2021 to improve fisheries and conservation in local areas
- Mana whenua and local community ambitions
- Supported by fisheries regulation
- Framework by 2023

Kōura numbers on Waiheke Island



Government Strategy – 8 elements

8. Governance

- Cross agency implementation group
- Determine a future governance framework which includes Treaty negotiation outcomes.



Other Issues for Yachties

The proposed **Clean Hull Plan-He tai ora** an inter-regional marine pathway-management plan



Northland
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

 **BAY OF PLENTY**
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TOI MOANA

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Pōhō o Waikato

Auckland
Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

 **Department of**
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Proposed Clean Hull Plan Rules

- Applies to ALL marine craft that are moored or berthed in water, but not trailer boats
- Any associated “in-water” gear or equipment
- Any marine structures, except marine farms
- The upper North Island out to 12 Nautical miles



Includes four potential rules for boat and marine-structure owners:

1. Craft must meet a biofouling standard when moving – the proposed standard is ‘**slime layer and barnacles only**’.
2. Gear and equipment must be free of fouling and sediment.
3. Operators to provide information in relation to hull maintenance and craft movements.
4. A fourth potential rule would require a **marine pathway risk management plan** for high-risk structures, such as significant ports, wharves, marinas, and haul-out and cleaning facilities (except where covered by a recognised biosecurity programme).

Proposed Clean Hull Plan Rules

- Introduction of hull cleaning rules
- Introduction of hull cleaning and antifouling standards
- If biofouling on hulls exceeds threshold, boat only allowed to be moved to be cleaned.
- Compliance and enforcement funded by Govt and owners



Significant Environmental Issues

- Toxic copper leaching from vessel hulls in Auckland's marinas was the single largest source into Auckland's marine environment, over 3 tonnes a year.





Photo: Shaun Lee

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