

s 9 (2)(a)

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 3:43 pm  
**To:** K Allan (MIN); P Williams (MIN); D Parker (MIN); Rino Tirikatene  
**Subject:** Seachange Submission  
**Attachments:** 0243\_001.pdf

Dear Ministers

Attached is the submission of the Aldermen Islands Marine Reserve Group seeking protection for the inshore waters of this island group some 12 Nautical Miles off the South Eastern Coromandel Coast, which UNESCO has recommended.

Present proposals contain no measures to protect any of the inshore waters of this nationally and internationally important group of islands.

You are respectfully requested to assist in providing the reasonable and sensible Marine Reserve protection sought.

Yours faithfully

s 9 (2)(a)

Aldermen Islands Marine Reserve Group

s 9 (2)(a)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2022 3:53 PM  
**To:** Office of Jacqui Dean MP <[OfficeofJacquiDean.MP@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeofJacquiDean.MP@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Seachange Submission - Alderman Islands

Hi Jacqui

I attach the submission of the Aldermen Islands Marine Reserve Group for your information.

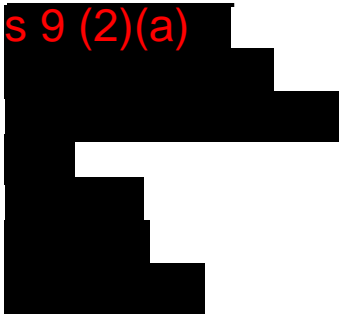
These islands are a nature reserve but have no marine protection for their inshore waters. Current DOC proposals inexplicably continue this lack of protection despite UNESCO recommending their protection as well as the regional and local councils.

This is a deep suspicion amongst some that this is a result of the Prime Minister's husband enjoying fishing and spearfishing at the islands, where they have a holiday home in adjacent Tairua.

Kind regards

s 9 (2) (a)

s 9 (2) (a)



# ALDERMEN ISLANDS MARINE RESERVE GROUP

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

s 9 (2)(a)

27 October 2022

The Department of Conservation  
New Zealand

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

## Re: Revitalising the Gulf – Marine Protection Proposals - Aldermen Islands (South - Eastern Coromandel)

The Aldermen Islands and their inshore waters 12 nautical miles off the coast of the South Eastern Coromandel are on the UNESCO List for protection. Attached is a document published by UNESCO confirming the Aldermen islands are on the UNESCO list for protection which also covers protection of its inshore waters.<sup>1</sup> The UNESCO document recommends “consideration should be given to extending the site by .... (c) including marine protection areas which may eventually be formed around island clusters...”

The Aldermen Islands are also recognised by the Waikato Regional Council and the Thames Coromandel District Council as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty deserving of protection.<sup>2</sup>

The absence of proposals for the protection of the inshore waters of the Aldermen Islands is of grave serious international concern. The proposals for the Aldermen Islands have the appearance of a quick afterthought at the end of a large marine area. We **strongly urge** their protection as a full marine reserve for at least 1500 metres from their Mean High Water Mark, akin to those established at Whanganui-a-hei (Cathedral Cove) and at Mayor Island. The location of this offshore Island group a marine reserve, between these existing reserves creates a chain of offshore marine reserves. Making a Marine Reserve will have no impact on commercial fishing and recreational takes. There are many other nearby more accessible islands for recreational fishing. Additionally, a reserve at the Aldermen Islands will aid regeneration of stock available for both commercial and recreational fishing elsewhere.

We are well aware of the history of the Islands and their status; gifted by the Mana whenua to the Crown, on the condition they remain a reserve whilst retaining rights to gather titi. The protection of existing customary rights for the Mana whenua is understood and supported. To afford **no protection at all**, to the inshore waters is illogical and severally depreciates the

<sup>1</sup> <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5126/>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/WRC-2019/TR201605\\_section\\_E2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3xBluAjm7LD9AhIxyWzLayHRxZ\\_EuHoVkj8THtnXKUmlM-LU\\_Di1UB9c](https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/WRC-2019/TR201605_section_E2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3xBluAjm7LD9AhIxyWzLayHRxZ_EuHoVkj8THtnXKUmlM-LU_Di1UB9c)

laudable efforts proposed provide deep water protection nearby as well as the Reserve Status the Islands enjoy. The current proposals in respect of the Aldermen Islands are in our view poorly thought-out and fail to recognise their unique national and international status.

The Aldermen Islands inshore marine environment suffers from large growing areas of Kina barrens resulting from overfishing. This has greatly accelerated in recent years. There would seem to be little point in having protected the land of the Islands and the nearby deep seas, if their inshore waters receive no official protection of any sort.

There is also, no reason why parts of the Alderman Islands cannot be designated a marine reserve and allow recreational fishing in other parts, as is proposed for other islands and areas. Doing so will mean a great deal for the Coromandel Region as it will benefit from increased conservation tourism, as the marine protection of the Poor Knights Island Group has done for Northland.

It is important that in establishing marine boundaries that they are easily to understood and police. Making inshore waters of specific named islands off limits for fishing promotes understanding, acceptance and compliance aiding the conservation objectives.

The proposed random subdivision of the island areas into two levels of protection on an artificial east-west line is illogical, irrational and uninformed as it fails to take into account the geography of the Islands both above and below water. As a few examples, the world famous Honeycomb Caves area on the northern side of Hongiora Island, the lagoons on the northside of Middle Island and Severn Cove area on the southern side of Middle Island must at least be within the areas of the highest level of protection available. Simply drawing a straight line through the group is reminiscent of lazy colonial map drawing without reference to the area at all.

In summary, the Aldermen Islands Marine Reserve Group strongly urge that:

1. Marine Reserve Status be extended to the inshore waters of the Aldermen Islands of at least 1500 meters to their Mean High Water Mark to place both its land areas and inshore underwater conservation status on the same level; and
2. That any new reserve focuses in particular on Hongiora Island and the Middle Island group;

We ask to be included in all further communications and given an equal opportunity to all others make submissions on all proposals that may affect the conservation of the Aldermen Islands and their surrounding waters.

We would welcome showing you the Islands in person, should the opportunity arise in the future which will greatly enhance an understanding of decision makers of why the Aldermen Islands are on the UNSECO list.

Yours faithfully

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

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

# Whakarua Moutere (North East Islands)

## Description

Whakarua Moutere (or the North-East Islands) is a serial site of nine locations (eight of them island groups) extending along the northeastern coastline of the North Island. The northernmost cluster is the Three Kings Islands (latitude 34° 10' S) 60 km NW off Cape Reinga; the southernmost is the Aldermen Islands (36° 58' S) 20 km off the eastern coast of the Coromandel Peninsula.

The nine clusters in the site are:

- Three Kings Islands/Manawatawhi;
- Te Pahi and North Cape Reserves;
- Poor Knights Islands;
- Hen and Chickens Islands;
- Mokohinau Islands;
- Hauturu/Little Barrier Island;
- Cuvier Island;
- Red Mercury and lesser Mercury Islands; and
- Aldermen Islands

## Statements of authenticity and/or integrity

Most of the islands have the highest level of terrestrial legal protection available (Nature Reserves or Wildlife Sanctuaries). This level of protection equates with IUCN's category 1a protected area. All sites are strictly managed by the Department of Conservation.

In the longer term however, consideration should be given to extending the site by:

- (a) adding Mayor Island (Tuhua) which has outstanding geological features and landforms.
- (b) adding Ohinau Island, the privately-owned Murimotu Island off North Cape, and some of the smaller privately-owned islands in the Cavalli Islands group; and
- (c) including marine protected areas which may eventually be formed around the island clusters (or Te Pahi/North Cape).

Only two of the island groups currently have marine reserves in their surrounding seas. The seas around the Three Kings Islands, the benthic communities of Spirits Bay and Tom Bowling Bay, Parengarenga Harbour, and the rock wall and fish communities of the Poor Knights Islands are outstanding marine ecosystems with high levels of species diversity and endemism. An outstanding feature of these marine environments is their relatively unmodified nature, with high water clarity arising from low levels of human-induced sedimentation.

All the Whakarua Moutere islands have prime conservation functions as 'sanctuary islands' where species threatened on the mainland can recover.

 [New Zealand](#)

**Date of Submission:**

30/03/2007

**Criteria:** [\(vii\)](#)[\(viii\)](#)[\(ix\)](#)[\(x\)](#)

**Category:** Natural

**Submitted by:**

Department of Conservation

**State, Province or Region:**

Northland to Bay of Plenty

**Ref.:** 5126

## Export

[Word File](#) 

[UNESCO](#) > [Culture](#) > [World Heritage Centre](#) > [The List](#) > [Global Strategy](#) > [Tentative Lists](#)

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) , 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 12:40 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** High Protection Areas (HPA)

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I support the development of HPAs if they are closed to all fishing. Surely the purpose is to protect marine life. Exceptions for Customary Fishing makes no sense from an environmental point of view.

Best regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)



## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 12:41 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Sea Change Submission - Hahei Marine Reserve Expansion  
**Attachments:** Marine Reserve Extension Submission 281022.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Please find my submission attached.

Regards

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

28 October 2022

Submission on Sea Change Document to Revitalise the Hauraki Gulf

Proposed Extension of Whanganui-a-Hei Marine Reserve

Submitter: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)

Submission:

I have reviewed the document titled “Revitalising the Gulf” and am broadly in support of the measures being proposed. I am particularly interested in the proposals to extend the Marine Reserve at Hahei Beach – the Whanganui-a-Hei proposed expansion.

I have been a recreational diver and fisherman at Hahei for over 30 years and know the under water area well. My commenst are:

- I support the Marine Reserve at Hahei / Cathedral Cove
- I agree with extending the northern Marine reserve boundary and would support extending the northern boundary even further into Mercury Bay (suggest another km to the north).
- I agree with retaining the western (Cooks Beach boundary as proposed and currently set.
- I do not agree with extending the eastern boundary from its current position to be “half way” along Hahei Beach. This will serve no purpose and will not meet the stated aim of improving protection by limiting fishing on that boundary. There are few crayfish locations in the proposed extended area and the seabed is mostly sand / beach. What happens at certain times of the year, crayfish migrate out of the Marine Reserve no matter where the boundary is. Extending the eastern boundary eastwards will not change that. I have never seen crayfish migrate eastwards close to Hahei Beach – most are closer to Mahurangi Island and South Sunk Rock. I also believe the fishery is healthy in this part of Hahei Beach in terms of snapper, kahawai and other species. These fish migrate through these areas on a constant basis and changing the eastern boundary will have little effect on numbers. The other point is that making “half” (or some other area) of Hahei Beach protected will be too easy to flaunt and too hard to police. Swimmers, kayakers etc will be active in the protected area, will still lunch small boats and will take direct access to the water in this area - the habitat will not improve because of this. For these reasons I recommend leaving the eastern boundary from Hahei Beach to Mahurangi Island as it currently is.

I am happy to attend at any hearing or to send more to support this submission.

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 12:41 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Submission  
**Attachments:** Sam submission marine protection.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To whom it may concern,  
Attached is a submission for restoring the Hauraki Gulf.

Thanks  
s 9 (2)(a)

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

Sam Ross, s 9 (2)(a)  
s 9 (2)(a), 28.10.22

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I grew up in s 9 (2)(a) 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)**

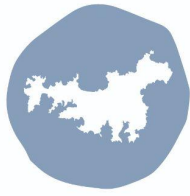
This is an area of high geophysical diversity and high habitat diversity that has great potential for restoration and recovery. It has already had considerable recreational use. The Seafloor Protection Area will provide protection to the zone’s seafloor communities including scallop beds and for nursery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



# WAIHEKE MARINE PROJECT

WAIHEKE KI UTA WAIHEKE KI TAI WAIHEKE KI TUA

28th October 2022

Submission on:

Marine protection proposals for Revitalising the Gulf

Government action on the Sea Change Plan

## Waiheke Marine Project

The [Waiheke Marine Project](#) (WMP) is an exciting prototype of community and mana whenua taking collaborative action to protect and regenerate Waiheke Island's land and sea. The WMP embodies Ahu Moana (concept from SeaChange Plan) at scale so the mauri of Waiheke's marine environment is protected and regenerated. The WMP enables all voices to find ways through the systemic barriers and resourcing capacity that so often inhibit marine care efforts.

Since April 2019 the WMP has been finding innovative ways to give effect to Te Tiriti and practise active partnership and collaboration built on mutual trust and respect. Dozens of tangible, reinforcing actions are underway across and around Waiheke Island that have been either catalysed or supported by the WMP. All of these actions are guided and paced by Te Tiriti partnership and multiple ways of knowing that build on historical knowledge and lean into youth ideas.

*Protection tools* is the focus of one of the nine unanimously agreed commitments<sup>1</sup> from the 2020 WMP Future Search event. Here 76 people of 9 voices of the system (mana whenua, youth, locals, marine business, fishers & boaties, agencies, conservationists, land interests, scientists) gathered to answer the question: How to protect and regenerate Waiheke's marine environment?

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<sup>1</sup> The nine common ground commitments are on the last page of this submission for DOC's information

The *Protection tools* commitment reads that:

**Working together we will learn and discover how to bring ahu moana to life. We are committed to the use and enjoyment of our marine environment and to developing effective marine protection through exploring and using the best mechanisms including rāhui and Marine Protected Areas**

The emphasis of this commitment is to develop **effective marine protection** through multiple mechanisms including rāhui and marine protected areas. The only way to determine effectiveness is by trial and error and feedback from the moana herself and from those people interacting and relying on the moana. This is a dynamic and emergent process that must be guided and paced by tangata whenua.

This submission is provided through the lens of the *protection tools* commitment. We regard the DOC marine protection proposals as an exploration for what might be effective marine protection, in time.

### **WMP opinion on the marine protection proposals:**

WMP supports the:

- action of the Government to pursue effective marine protection with these protection proposals.
- commitment to Te Tiriti partnership through recognition of and provision for customary practices of mana whenua AND would like to see more support for place based mana whenua leadership in the marine protection proposals.
- inclusion of our neighbours, the Noises, in the protection proposals AND encourages DOC to reconsider inclusion of a participatory mechanism so that communities of place can actively contribute to the effective implementation of the Noises HPA.
- proposed provision within HPAs for monitoring and research driven by both Mātauranga Māori and western science knowledge systems.
- proposed provision within HPAs for “active habitat restoration initiatives such as the removal or addition of marine life (translocation) to improve habitats of interest.” It is noted that the WMP regards such activity as *regenerative* work and believes regeneration must partner protection.

WMP suggests the proposals:



- Employ a greater degree of policy rigour so that existing protection tools are complemented by these new protection proposals. For example, it is crucial that policy work acknowledges rāhui, s186a of Fisheries Act, mataitai, taiapure, marine reserves and fisheries management measures as a suite of tools within which the proposed SPA and HPA must operate.
- Actively work to integrate the marine protection tools with the other activities underway to implement Sea Change. That is, the Fisheries Plan, habitat restoration, Ahu Moana etc.
- Take a more future focused and emergent approach that
  - Places regular opportunities for collaborative review of the protection measures in place
  - Adapts to new and emerging practices such as the many rāhui, regenerative projects and the recently approved by MBIE of a near \$14million project bringing mātauranga Māori to Tīkapa Moana.

WMP notes:

- Concern for the woefully inadequate central and local government resources for implementing marine protection tools. The current neglect of marine reserves, mataitai, taiapure, s186a temporary closures paint a picture of an under-resourced government sector to adequately fulfil the intent of the marine protection legislative tools.
- Concern for the lack of displacement assessment of the Noises HPA. At such close proximity to Waiheke, there could be extensive displacement of fishing effort. The WMP requests that DOC actively involve those with local knowledge in ongoing assessment of displacement effects.

“E huri tō aroaro ki te rā tukuna tō ataarangi ki te muri i a koe”  
Turn and face the sun and let your shadow fall behind you

Heoi anō, nā

s 9 (2)(a)

The Waiheke Marine Project Steering Group

## How to protect and regenerate Waiheke's marine environment

Common Ground	Commitment
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	We are giving effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through active partnership and collaboration built on mutual trust and respect.
Mauri	Waiheke ki uta, Waiheke ki tai, Waiheke ki tua – Waiheke from the mountains to the sea and beyond. We are regenerating the mauri of all ecologies. We will see healthy and abundant ecosystems, full of vitality achieved through preservation and restoration.
Learning	We are committed to the development and implementation of diverse learning opportunities for the community at large. Listening to the voices of Moana and whenua, for the moana and whenua, utilising science and Mātauranga. We are committed to empowering Rangatahi engagement, advocacy, and voices now and for generations to come.
Integrated Management	We will co-design and implement an integrated management framework that results in people and nature thriving through collaborative, inclusive, co-governance of hilltop to seabed.
Protection Tools	Working together we will learn and discover how to bring ahu moana to life. We are committed to the use and enjoyment of our marine environment and to developing effective marine protection through exploring and using the best mechanisms including rāhui and Marine Protected Areas.
Effective Legislation	Advocate local and central government to create effective legislation for coastal areas that is reactive and agile to include: Vessel registration, identification and skipper licensing. Delegated responsibility for local management of compliance, monitoring and enforcement.
Clean Water	We are committed to take a range of collaborative actions to remove contaminants entering the ocean to achieve clean water for all.
Waiheke Way	We are committed to local Waiheke decision-making through inspiring leadership to establish, maintain and sustain the Waiheke Way. Our Pledge: Nāku te Rourou, Nōu te Rourou, Ka ora ai e tātou taonga! With your respect, And my respect 'our' Waiheke will surely thrive!
Circular Economy	We are committed to a regenerative circular economy and a net zero emissions island by supporting viable and resilient business on Waiheke which hold as a priority the mauri of the moana (e.g. compliance, meaningful reporting guidelines, planning etc.).

As collectively agreed at Future Search Hui 30th October – 1st November 2020

[www.waihekemarineproject.org](http://www.waihekemarineproject.org)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 12:47 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** submission from Pakiri Landcare  
**Attachments:** Submission to Sea Change at Doc 28.10.22.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

## **Pakiri Community Landcare Group**

### **Submission in response to “Revitalising the Gulf marine protection zones proposed by the Department”**

#### **Nature of submission**

Pakiri Community Landcare group seeks to propose the placement of High Protection Marine Areas and in particular stronger Seafloor Protection within the Pakiri and Mangawhai embayment of Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Area and to have sand mining within the embayment and the Hauraki Gulf prohibited.

#### **This submission is on behalf of Pakiri Community Landcare Group Inc**

Our activities:

Waicare fresh water testing in our local streams.

Fencing and planting funding for our local waterways and wetlands.

Community planting days in the above areas including Pakiri Regional Park where we have planted over 6000 trees to date.

Sponsoring and actively supporting our local school with their Trees for Survival program since 2003 helping the students do riparian planting of over 7000 native trees on private and reserve land.

Investigating and reporting on the sandmining in our area. We have opposed all renewing of consents to continue mining on our coast.

Discussions and submissions on development of Pakiri Regional Park

Supporting locals and Pakiri Regional Park with pest control in our area. Aligning ourselves with Pakiri park rangers, Forest Bridge Trust and Restore Rodney East.

Pakiri Community Landcare Group give our full support with the purpose of the plan to “To fix the Gulf” especially enabling a vision of kaitiaki sustaining the mauri of the Gulf and It’s taonga

We wish to advocate for stronger seafloor protection in the Pakiri Mangawhai embayment. In 2007 we were invited to meet **s 9 (2)(a)** on the sand barge to be assured that they were conducting the dredging sustainably. They said that the barge was tracked by satellite so that they would take sand evenly from the permitted area. This has proved to not be true with them digging a huge trench down the length of the zone. We have owned land and have been a part of the community for 45 years and have noted many changes over that time. Horse mussels and scallops are no longer washed up in the north easterly gales and the golden sand now has black sand in it and the sandhills above the shoreline have been diminished. In a previous sandmining hearing it was said that the yearly take was only 1.7mm/year across the whole embayment but this is specious. If you take 9,000,000 cubic metres of sand from near the shoreline it seems obvious that a proportion of this will be replenished from the shore and we believe this to be the case. Therefore we support the prohibition of sand extraction and mining on the sea floor within the Pakiri Mangawhai embayment.

We wish to be involved with Mana Whenua in setting the biodiversity objectives for the Mangawhai and Pakiri embayment.

We support High Protection Areas and strongly recommend the consideration of placing HPA within the Mangawhai Pakiri Embayment

Strongly urge increasing the area under marine protection in the Gulf to a figure significantly higher than 6.6% and to include a HPA in the Pakiri Mangawhai embayment

Extending High Protection of the seafloor in line with the Regional Park Areas that flank Pakiri at Te Kiri Pa in the North and Te Arai Point in the South- extending the area of park protection on land to a corresponding area under water as a bare minimum of protection. This work on land by community groups to restore riparian margins, reforestation and wet land restoration on these parks will work holistically in supporting the corresponding marine areas. Especially in the restoration of Mauri so desired.

Protecting the customary rights of whanau that reside along the coastline

Nga mihi nui,

s 9 (2)(a)

Chairperson Pakiri Landcare Inc

(2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) . 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 12:53 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Attachments:** Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Protection Zones Submission.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Tena koe,

Please find attached the submission from Forest & Bird on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Protection Zones.

Nga mihi,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)  
Hauraki Gulf Coordinator

s 9 (2)(a)

I work Mon, Tues, Thurs 8.30-5.00, Fri 8.30-12.30

**“GIVE NATURE  
A VOICE BY JOINING  
FOREST & BIRD”**



28 October 2022

**Re: Submission on Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated (Forest & Bird) is New Zealand's largest, and oldest, independent nature conservation organisation with many members and supporters. Our mission is to be a voice for nature on land, in fresh water, and at sea. We have 47 branches throughout the country who are involved in a wide range of conservation and advocacy activities.
- 1.2. The Hauraki Gulf is a globally significant hotspot for biodiversity, but it is in serious trouble. On the doorstep of Auckland, Aotearoa's largest city, it is unable to withstand the ongoing and growing stressors and overfishing. **Forest & Bird is calling on the Minister and Department of Conservation to act with urgency to set in place all 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 Tikapa Moana.
- 1.3. Forest & Bird invested significant time and resources into the 2013-2017 Sea Change process. We consider it important that the ongoing work to protect the Gulf is acted on urgently by progressing the marine protection proposals.
- 1.4. The marine protection proposals are a step toward the revitalisation of the Hauraki Gulf. **Forest & Bird calls on more bold action to achieve 30% protection of Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf by 2030.** The proposed protection zones could go much further and have the ability to achieve 30% protection ahead of time. This should be a priority of the Minister and the Department of Conservation.
- 1.5. Forest & Bird has a long-standing interest in improving the health and protection of marine ecosystems and coastal areas and we submit in support of the Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals.



## 2. Submission

### 2.1. Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs)

We support the 5 proposed SPAs. We also support the Hauraki Gulf Forum's policy **to remove all industrial bottom trawling and scallop** dredging harvest techniques from the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Forest & Bird strongly suggests that the Government should establish a **Seafloor Protected Area over the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.**

The recent scallop fisheries closure for Northland, Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel fell short of a complete closure by leaving two areas open in the Hauraki Gulf, around Hauturu/Little Barrier Island and near the Colville Channel. These two high density scallop beds are crucial to the re-establishment of scallops across the Gulf and the improvements that will bring to the marine environment. Dredging and bottom impact fishing have no place in a Marine Park. We recommend an urgent closure for all dredging in the Hauraki Gulf.

Forest & Bird is part of the Hauraki Gulf Alliance which currently has a petition with over 11,000 signatures. A complete end to all bottom trawling and scallop dredging harvest techniques is needed because bottom impact fishing:

- Flattens the seafloor reducing complexity that is valuable to benthic life
- Kills plants & animals that build complex habitats
- Injures plants & animals making them vulnerable to predation and disease

Bottom impact fishing also generates massive sediment plumes to (to scare fish into the net) that:

- Prevent the ocean from sinking carbon
- Choke sessile filter feeding animals
- Smother photosynthesising plants

84% of respondents to the Horizon Research 2021 poll want to ban all bottom impact fishing in the Gulf. Please **extend the five SPAs to cover the entire seafloor of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.** It's important that any legislation used to create the SPAs enables extensions to the five proposed areas.



**Recommendations:**

- A. Extend the SPAs over the entire Haruaki Gulf Marine Park.
- B. Ensure the SPA legislation allows for extensions and new SPAs.

**2.2. High Protection Areas (HPAs)**

Forest & Bird fully supports all 12 proposed HPAs.

Although the biodiversity benefits of these HPAs will be experimental in that they have not been tried in Aotearoa / New Zealand before, Forest & Bird completely supports their goals / aspirations.

**Concerns for the HPAs**

It's critical that the HPAs continue to be framed as conservation tools. There doesn't seem to have been any significant progress on defining the customary practices since they were proposed in 2017. Without this definition our concerns are speculative. We note that in the latest consultation document the HPAs are no longer referred to as Type 1 Marine Protection Areas (MPAs). If commercial customary take is allowed in the HPAs, the government should clearly articulate that to the public during the consultation process, this has not happened to-date. The new HPA legislation should not prevent the implementation of stricter no-take rules via Motiti protection areas or existing / future Marine Reserves Act legislation in the HPA areas.

Forest & Bird acknowledges the rights to customary harvest that are enshrined in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and have been subsequently reinforced in Treaty settlements.

We recommend that the Government also provide adequate information to inform the public of the meaning of customary take, the importance to tangata whenua and how customary fishing rights are guaranteed to tangata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and are protected by law in the:

- Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992
- 1992 Deed of Settlement.

**Recommendations to improve the HPA network**

We have some concerns about the design of the HPAs. Mostly that they are nowhere near big enough to achieve the 30% protection target sought by the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 30% protection by 2030. The Gulf MPA network needs to be much more ambitious (and work hand in hand with the Fisheries

Management Plan) to restore abundance at the bottom of the food chain and stop declines in species that are going extinct at the top of the food chain.

11 years ago a Colman Brunton poll found that New Zealanders thought that 30% of their ocean was protected from fishing. Only 3% of our EEZ is protected and little has changed since then. The poll showed 96% of New Zealanders thought that 30% of New Zealand's marine environment should be protected.

77% of respondents to a more local and recent Horizon Research 2021 poll want 30% of the Gulf in marine protected areas. The public understanding of MPAs at that time was that they would be no-take. 72% of the recreational fishers polled also supported the 30% target.

Forest & Bird fully supports the recent inclusion of the Otata / The Noises HPA in the protection proposals.

### 2.3. Protection Zones

**Forest & Bird supports the extensions to the Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) and Cape Rodney – Okakari Point marine reserves.**

We understand DOC received mixed feedback from mana whenua on which protection tool to use.

Extending the boundaries using the Marine Reserves Act as proposed in Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari 2017 will help create an example of an unimpacted marine ecosystem. Biodiversity in the reserve will always reflect that outside the reserve due to population source / sink dynamics. It's important the proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Management Plan reduces fishing pressure in unprotected areas.

The extensions will enable better reef biodiversity benchmarking for HPA biodiversity goals. The extension also offers an opportunity to better understand the recovery of soft-sediment ecosystems in the Gulf.

### 2.4. Proposed Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve

This proposal is outside the scope of the current consultation, but it is very relevant when considering the network of MPAs in the Gulf. The reserve application was submitted to DOC in January 2022, under the Marine Reserves Act. Public consultation showed overwhelming (93%) public support. Forest & Bird has submitted in support of the Hakaimango-Matiatia Marine Reserve.

2.5. If you have any questions about the points raised in this submission, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The science has shown this much needed protection is overdue. **Please act with the utmost urgency in progressing the Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals.** You have the full support of Forest & Bird.

s 9 (2)(a)

Hauraki Gulf Coordinator

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:08 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve Expansion  
**Attachments:** hahei\_20221028130928.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Good afternoon,

Please find enclosed our submission on the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve expansion.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

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

s 9 (2)(a)

28 October 2022

Hahei Marine Reserve  
Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve Expansion  
[seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)

Dear Sir

We would like to object to the expansion of the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve in relation to the part which covers the Mahurangi island coast and part of Hahei beach. We have no objection to the expansion out to sea.

The issues that the closing off the sheltered side of Mahurangi island and part of the Hahei beach area are the same as when the original reserve was put in place. Leaving the only option for boats to use the Wigmore Passage is dangerous and will put lives at risk. Small boats should be able to use the shelter of the island and fish within the bay all long the beach. Pushing these vessels further out will create situations which are likely to become dangerous to persons and property.

If you require any further information or support in this matter please do not hesitate to contact us.

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:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:12 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** s 9 (2)(a) family submission  
**Attachments:** October 22 Neureuter submission Final.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora Sea Change team,

Please find attached on behalf of the s 9 (2)(a) family, our submission to the Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposal.

Ngā mihi nui,  
s 9 (2)(a)

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

s 9 (2)(a)

C/- s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

**To:**

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

**c/- Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation**  
**by email: [seachange@doc.govt.nz](mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz)**

28 October 2022

Tēnā kōrua, Minister Parker and Minister Williams

### **SUBMISSION TO REVITALISING THE GULF MARINE PROTECTION PROPOSALS**

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

This submission is made on behalf of the s 9 (2)(a) who have all contributed. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for the inclusion of the Noises as one of the High Protection Area (HPA) proposals and we also support all other initiatives within your proposal.

As a family, we have spent four generations at the Noises observing change. We urge you to consider the following points.

#### **Value in Developing Positive Relationships**

For many years we have seen first-hand the benefits from working with others to achieve common goals. We know that without building positive relationships with both Mana Whenua and stakeholders it will be difficult to reach agreement on marine protection. Listening to the concerns of others and finding common ground, has meant our family has often been able to progress the more difficult conversations and find agreement or compromises that achieve improved outcomes on the current state of the Gulf.

#### **Importance of a Local Advisory Group**

We believe that DOC's decision making around proposing monitoring, research and/or active habitat restoration would be enhanced by working alongside those with specific knowledge of place.

- We have seen this working in practice with our mahi at The Noises and we know there is an appetite for this amongst stakeholders.
- This helps ensure the best environmental outcomes and allows others who know and use the area to have a voice and feel included rather than excluded.

- A local advisory group is likely to capture current scientific and anecdotal data that can be shared with mana whenua. This may support their knowledge and decision-making should they wish for it and provide a mechanism for our two world views to sit side by side.
- We have seen that shifting perceptions is an incremental process, so including stakeholders as advisors is important for progressing those shifts.
- It may provide an incentive to others to be better kaitiaki.

### **Importance of Adaptive Management**

We believe adaptive management is critical because:

- We do not know what we will see in the coming years with impacts from climate change.
- We do not know how future fisheries management reforms outside the protected areas, will impact on the HPA's.
- We do not know how impacts from urban growth, farming, forestry, discharging sediment and contaminants will impact marine systems.
- We do not know what will happen when we protect an area around The Noises almost ten times larger than any existing MPA in New Zealand or how change will occur when a network of marine protection is initiated over The Gulf.
- It may foster greater acceptance from those who oppose Marine Reserves due to their inflexibility and enables people to make incremental shifts to their currently held beliefs.
- It allows a mechanism to make nimble changes based on evidence obtained from regular monitoring.

It is our family's great hope that future legislation will be sufficiently adaptive to recognise land/sea connections and the value of protecting entire ecosystems.

### **Importance of Surveillance and Enforcement**

Over our lifetimes, we have seen extensive abuse of privilege when it comes to extraction. Over-harvest is a major contributing factor to such low numbers of crayfish, scallops, paua, reef fish, and large territorial snapper in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park/Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui a Toi, including around the Noises. We have witnessed this plunder over the past five decades.

- Unless there is the means and intent to monitor and enforce these HPA's, why will this behaviour change?
- We are concerned many of these proposed HPA's are vulnerably located away from human habitation, including The Noises, and there will be no consequences for those who disregard their establishment.
- Without meaningful surveillance and enforcement, there is a danger of increasing division between stakeholders and mana whenua.
- Without meaningful surveillance and enforcement, the full benefits derived from marine protection may not be realised.
- Our family wish to flag the potential for environmental and physical vandalism to the islands of the Noises. We believe this is a legitimate concern for all remote islands with proposed adjacent HPAs, providing further justification for surveillance and enforcement.



We therefore urge you to consider how you will enforce these new areas and how we might best support you.

### **Recognising the Intrinsic Values of Marine Recovery**

If we can establish HPA's and more sustainable fishing practices over the entire Gulf, at the same time addressing land based sediment/pollution issues, we could offer areas for people to experience regeneration.

In the future, we strongly believe that having special places where people can experience the sense of joy associated with recovery – a gift everyone can benefit from – will be increasingly valued in a world of turmoil, and loss brought about by global biodiversity collapse and a climate change crisis.

In conclusion we believe that management of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park must be active, adaptative and enduring to not only meet the current environmental degradation, but the uncertainty created by direct and indirect effects of climate change.

Finally, we will continue to offer our collective knowledge and assistance to DOC to support the progression of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill to enact these marine protection proposals. We will continue to support you to implement this package, to revitalise the waiora and mauri of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the **s 9 (2)(a)**

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

**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 1:14 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf marine protection proposals submission  
**Attachments:** s 9 (2)(a) -Submission to Revitalising the Gulf marine protection proposals.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Please find my submission attached.  
Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission to Revitalising the Gulf marine protection proposals.

28 October 2022

1. I **support the Revitalising the Gulf marine protection proposals** but do not think they go far enough in protecting biodiversity and ecosystems that are under enormous pressure – from both marine and land-based human actions (and inactions).
2. I urge the Minister of Conservation to approve the Hakaimango-Matiatia (NW) Waiheke Marine Reserve application **in addition** to the Revitalising the Gulf marine protection proposals.
3. I support marine protection areas adjacent to existing marine reserves being established as **extensions of the existing marine reserves** using the Marine Reserves Act.
4. I am very disappointed that in a proposal whose goal is restoring the overall health and mauri of the Gulf and is a generational opportunity ... **there are no new proposed marine reserves**. Please propose new marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park to achieve the Hauraki Gulf Forum and IUCN 30% protection targets.
5. It seems poor practice to use new, unproven tools (HPA's, SPA's) without benchmarking them against a proven, established tool (marine reserves) established **co-currently** (similar temporal starting points of protection). A new marine reserve (such as Hakaimango-Matiatia) would be useful as a comparison in the evaluation of these new tools.
6. I urge the Minister of Conservation and the Government to act with **urgency** to legislate the above marine protection measures.

Kind 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 1:19 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf marine protection submission

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

**Categories:** Recorded

The number and area of marine protected areas in the proposal should be dramatically increased and there should be an immediate ban on all bottom trawling in all parts of the Hauraki Gulf including areas outside of proposed protected areas.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

she/her)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:26 pm  
**To:** Sea Change

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

**Categories:** Recorded

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

Agree protection immediately required.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:27 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Submission regarding proposed Te Whanganui a Hei Marine Reserve Expansion  
**Attachments:** s 9 (2)(a) Hahei submission\_281022.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi,

Please find attached our submission regarding proposed Te Whanganui a Hei Marine Reserve Expansion.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension Proposal

### Dept of Conservation (DoC) Consultation

From: s 9 (2)(a)

Date: 28 October 2022

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

---

#### Background

I have worked for the s 9 (2)(a)

As such, I am familiar with the original investigations for the formation of the reserve and the consultations which related to the final reserve boundaries.

I was subsequently the Chair of the s 9 (2)(a) and involved with the initiation of scientific monitoring programmes in the Reserve.

We have a holiday home in s 9 (2)(a) and are active fishers, divers, and boaters (power, sail and kayaks) in the area.

#### Submission

Our information on this proposal has been obtained from the Department of Conservation website (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/haveyoursayonthegulf>). We are also members of the s 9 (2)(a) and have seen their documentation on the proposal.

Based on the DOC website the original Reserve extension proposal was to include the whole of Mahurangi Island and approximately half of Hahei Beach as shown in their Figure 29 (reproduced below). The extension proposal was to exclude the eastern side of Mahurangi Island (Figure 30 below).

Our specific submission issues are:

Item	Proposal	Support/Oppose	Reasons
1	Inclusion of a portion of Hahei Beach within the Reserve.	Oppose	(i) Collection of any material on beach would be prohibited below high tide mark; (ii) Use of beach for dog walking may be prohibited; (iii) Restriction of beach fishing could be beneficial for the Reserve but unlikely to be a significant management benefit. (iv) Difficult to identify boundaries and enforce access/take and other restrictions. (v) Likely to be unpopular for local and visiting users.

			(vi) Unclear what the benefits for marine reserve management would be.
2	Extension of the Reserve seaward boundary.	Support	This seaward area will: (i) provide a buffer area for fish habitat and biodiversity preservation around islands; (ii) include substantive underwater rocky reef features in this area (e.g., South Sunk Rock); and (iii) provides deep-water habitat (e.g., sponge gardens) which is not otherwise included in the current Reserve.
3	Inclusion of the Western side of Mahurangi Island in the Reserve extension.	Support	This is a popular snorkelling area and is an area where the local dive shop takes many visitors. The near-shore reef habitats support juvenile and adult rock lobsters. This area is currently heavily potted at a level which likely severely depletes the numbers of rock lobsters which would otherwise be present. I consider that this area represents a high value for preservation.
4	Exclusion of protection for Eastern side of Mahurangi Island.	Oppose	<p>We would support the inclusion of all of Mahurangi Island (similar to Figure 29 proposal). We therefore oppose the proposed version (Figure 30).</p> <p>We have proposed an alternative for practical boundaries (<b>Figure 1 below</b>). The reasons for this are: (i) high quality and diverse species of fish inhabit North-East bay reefs; (ii) significant deep-water sponge gardens present off NE bay (identified in original Reserve proposal); (iii) large marine caves present in South-East bay; and (iv) would include high current area inshore of Mahurangi Island not otherwise present in Reserve.</p>



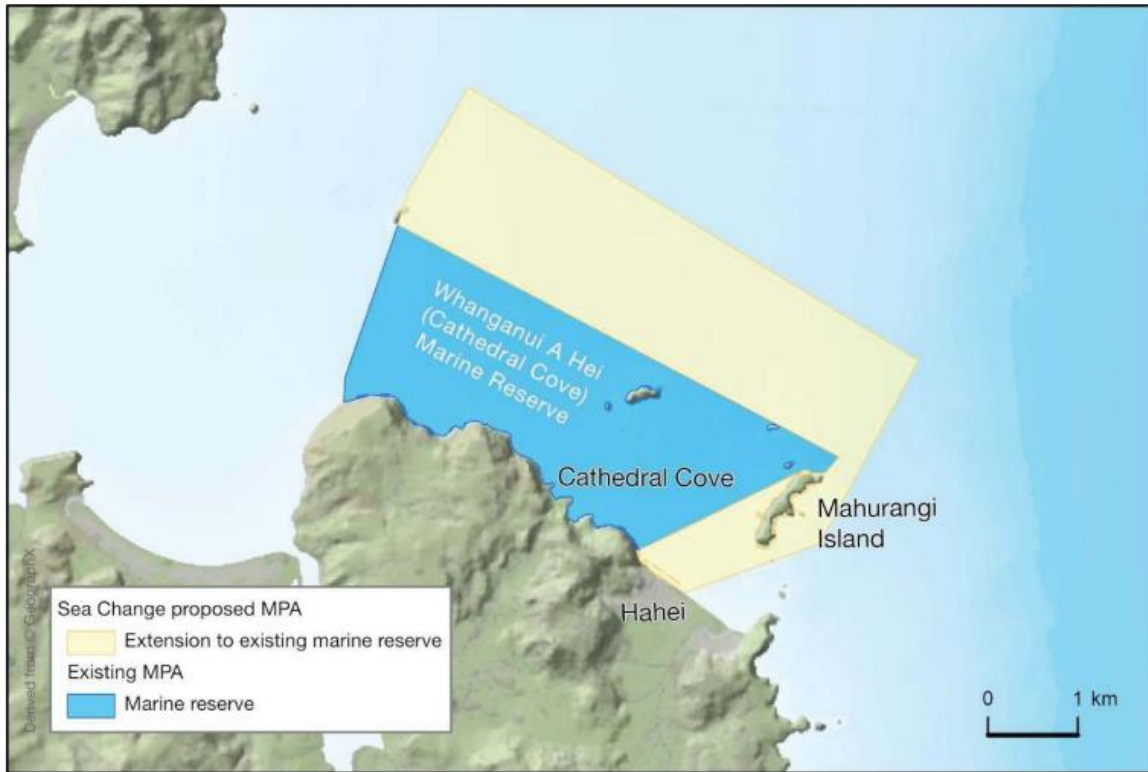


Figure 29. Sea Change Plan proposal for extension of Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve.

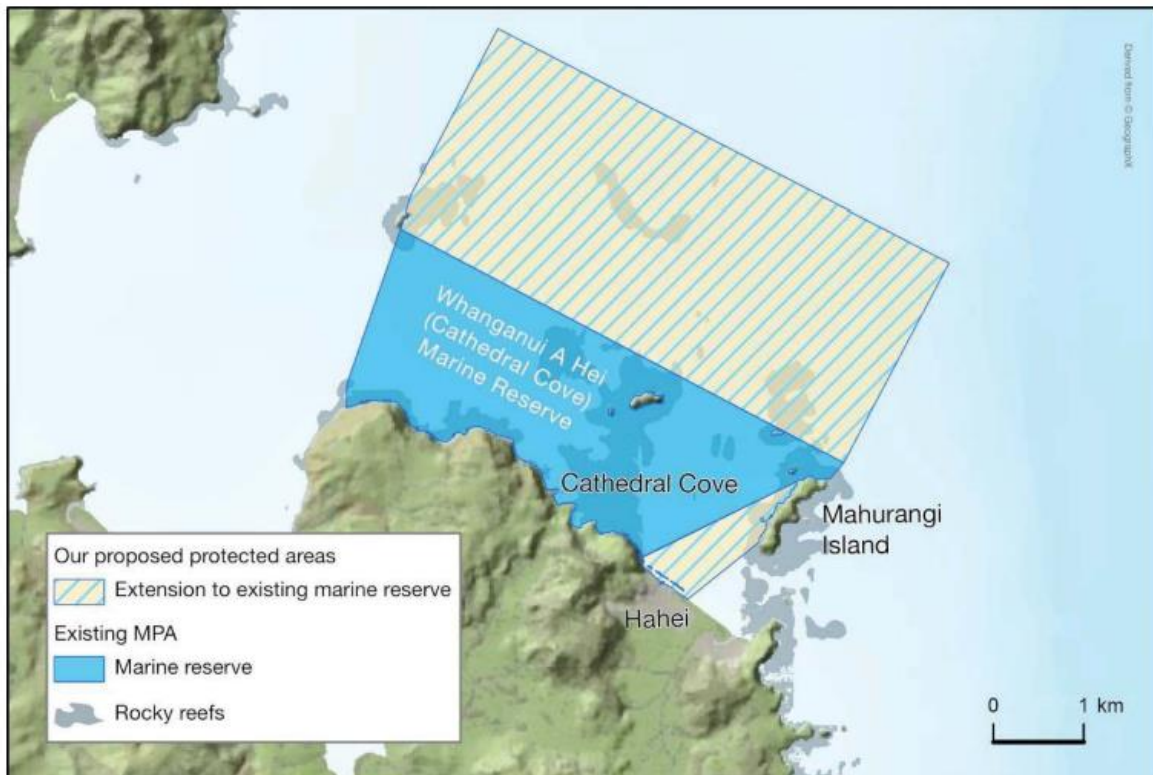
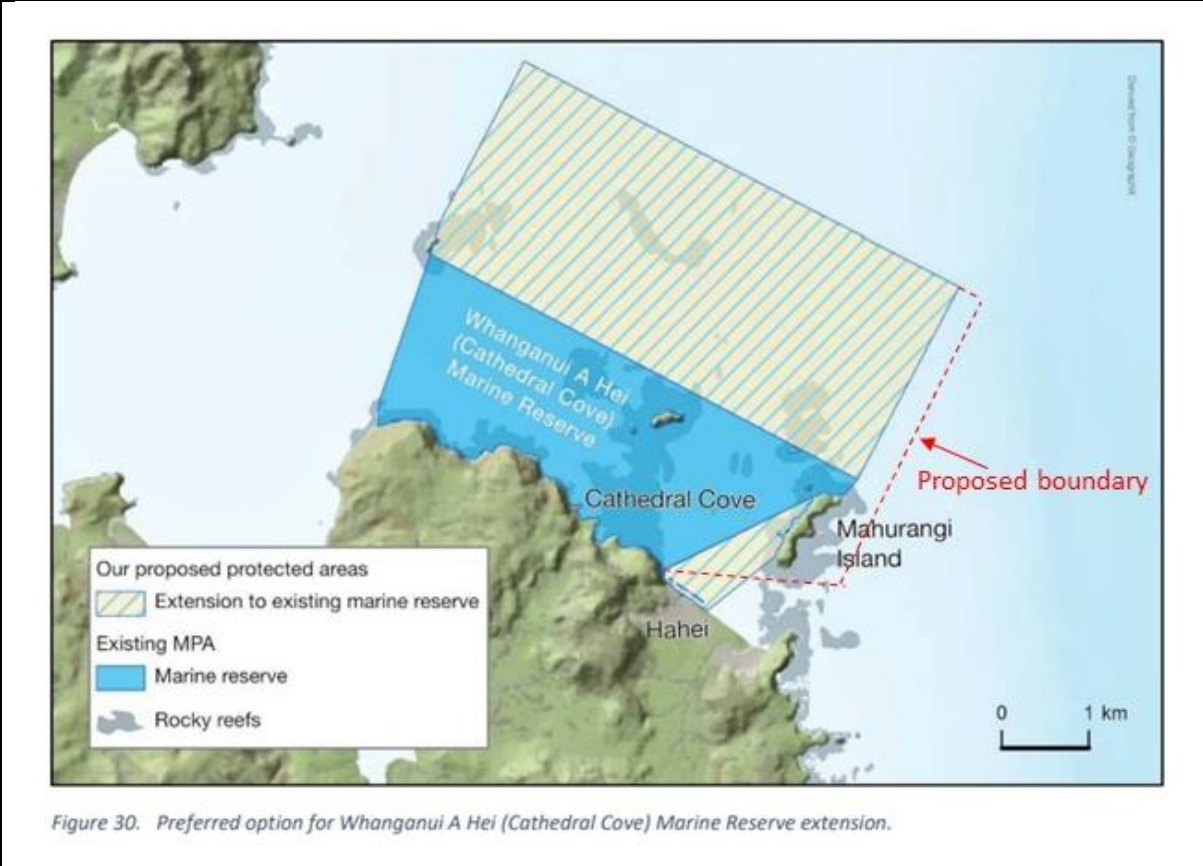


Figure 30. Preferred option for Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve extension.



**Figure 1:** Proposed boundaries (red dashed line) from this proposal.

**Address details:**

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:33 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Marine Protected Areas  
**Attachments:** s 9 (2)(a) Marine Protection Submission.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

Please see my submission on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Marine Protected Areas attached.

My contact details are:

s 9 (2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s 9 (2)(a)

28 October 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

This is a submission in response to the Revitalising the Gulf Proposed Protection Areas. I support the proposed protection zones as set out in the discussion document. In particular, I strongly support high protection areas being established around terrestrial conservation areas such as the Noises Islands, Hauturu, Tiri Tiri Matangi, Motutapu and the Mokohinau Islands. I support the extension of existing marine reserves at Goat Island and Cathedral Cove. I also support the establishment of benthic protection areas that restrict trawling and other activities that damage the sea floor.

The Hauraki Gulf is in a terrible state and urgently needs all the protection it can get. Many species that formerly thrived there have become functionally extinct due to over fishing. The Hauraki Gulf is a breeding ground for many species of fish and marine mammals and was once home to millions of sea birds. Excessive fishing practices (both commercial and recreational) have caused huge damage and loss to this once thriving ecosystem. The establishment of other marine reserves and marine protective areas have proven that the marine environment can rapidly recover if given respite. Creating marine reserves and high protection areas benefits everyone – the species living in the Hauraki Gulf, first and foremost are given a lifeline to survive and reproduce. Fisheries are improved through ‘leaking’ of fish out of protected areas and increased breeding capacity. Marine reserves also result in fish living longer and growing bigger, which increases catch size. Marine reserves and high protection areas benefit people through greater recreational potential and provide more opportunities for scientific study and understanding of our marine species and their environments. Kaikoura has a fantastic industry built upon whale and dolphin watching, but if we take proper care of the Hauraki Gulf, by increasing marine reserves and protective areas, we also support greater numbers of marine mammals returning and this has the potential to increase whale watching tourism in Auckland.

We have an extraordinary array of pest-free reserves on islands within the Hauraki Gulf, which thousands of volunteers have spent years restoring. All ecosystems are connected and it is entirely fitting that the care we show for our native birds, plants, reptiles and insects is also extended to our native marine life. I would like to see a network of marine reserves around each of our pest-free islands and the Hauraki Gulf returned to its state as a major center for sea bird breeding, as well as being a nursery ground for fish. The marine protected areas proposed are a great first step towards achieving this. People benefit from having a healthy environment and creating protected areas will benefit all Aucklanders, both directly and indirectly. Since being established as a marine reserve the Poor Knights has become one of the top dive destinations in the world and Goat Island has become a tourist destination and center for marine study. New marine reserves and high protection areas have the potential to also become hubs that attract tourism and study.

Our oceans are facing increasing stress from the impacts of climate change, over exploitation from fishers, pollution and sedimentation from land-based run-off. As the body of water closest to Aotearoa’s largest city the Hauraki Gulf is under huge pressure. By creating more marine protected areas we create greater resilience for our marine species, which they desperately need. I look forward to seeing the proposed marine protection areas established as the first step towards healing our precious Hauraki Gulf.

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 1:43 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Marine Protection Proposal Package

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

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

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.

Thanks,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:47 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Revitalising the Gulf  
**Attachments:** BRW900F0C0B76F6\_000361.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear officer in charge

please find attached submission to the 'Revitalising the Gulf' plan from the Friends of the Hauraki Gulf.

Sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)  
chairperson  
Friends of the Hauraki Gulf



s 9 (2)(a)

## Submission on 'Revitalising the Gulf' & proposed Hauraki Gulf Protection Bill

### Introduction

The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf Inc (FoHG) is a Waiheke-based conservation organisation with members on Aotea / Great Barrier and Rakino islands and the Auckland mainland. Its purposes include 'to research and advocate for the setting aside of marine protected areas, especially no-take marine reserves...' and 'to encourage and facilitate the scientific study of marine life and the natural history of the Hauraki Gulf.' In April 2021 FoHG lodged a formal application with the Director-General of The Department of Conservation (DOC) under section 5 of the Marine Reserves Act for the Hākaimangō-Matiatia (NW Waiheke) Marine Reserve, located in the central Hauraki Gulf. At 2,350ha in area, this would be the biggest no-take marine protected area in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The following is our formal submission to the 'Revitalising the Gulf' Plan:

Marine ecosystems in the Hauraki Gulf are under stress and in many cases damaged and disrupted. Human impacts, principally through over exploitation are considered by marine scientists to be the main cause of the precipitous decline in a wide range of marine biota within the Hauraki Gulf. This deeply concerning trend has been a consistent theme of the Hauraki Gulf Forum three-yearly state of the environment reports since 2004 (see *State of Our Gulf 2020*). Given this trend and the mounting weight of evidence, to categorise this situation as an 'ecological crisis', indeed an 'emergency', is not an overstatement.

As an illustration of the accelerating ecological deterioration of the Hauraki Gulf, from estimated virgin biomass there has been a:

*57% decline in key fish stocks,*  
*67% decline in seabirds,*  
*76% decline in crayfish / kōura,*  
*83% decline in snapper / tāmure,*  
*86% decline in trevally / arara,*  
*86% decline in all shark species / mangō,*  
*97% decline in whales and dolphins.*

[Source 'State of Our Gulf 2020']

It is worth considering that this crisis which is local and immediate, ongoing and a result of human impacts on the natural world, especially the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, is related to the global crisis of human-induced climate change for which local authorities and government have declared an emergency. Therefore the ecological crisis in the Gulf also requires a meaningful response by the responsible authorities, especially the NZ government.

Instead of dealing with the worsening situation there has been only many years of empty talk and little or no action. The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf believe the very best that can be said about the limited protections offered by the 'Revitalising the Gulf' initiative is that they are a start but given the scale of the crisis we have to say they are totally inadequate. Moreover, the conflicted objectives of this initiative, which arguably are only superficially about nature protection, they could do more harm to the country than good.

The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf note that the 'Revitalising the Gulf' initiative was a response to the Auckland Council-driven 'Sea Change' (so-called) non statutory marine spatial plan which, we can say with some authority was dominated and frankly compromised by resource users and corporate interests with conflicts of interest – while the general public living in and around the Hauraki Gulf was effectively excluded from the process. The process was therefore deeply flawed from the outset. The Minister's 'Revitalising the Gulf' response to Sea Change, while allaying some of our worst fears as presented will frankly do little to restore ecological health and natural biodiversity of the Hauraki Gulf.

The key instruments in the Minister's initiative appears to be twelve High Protection Areas (HPAs), five Sea Floor Protection Areas (SPAs) and two 'Protected Areas' adjacent to two existing marine reserves.

### **Sea Floor Protection Areas (SPAs)**

We support the objectives of the SPAs in protecting the benthic habitat but we would also like them to include pelagic protections to recognise the ecological connections between pelagic and benthic habitats. Currently the SPA's are open to surface fishing. Favouring one form of exploitation, or one group of exploiters over another, is a serious flaw in what is meant to be a marine protection plan. On the face of it, whatever the equity in this approach protecting the seafloor while allowing continued exploitation of the water column is certainly is not good science and bad conservation practice.

If the government wishes to set aside recreational-only fishing areas that is its right and indeed we are sure this would be a popular initiative, but it is not credible to promote this as marine protection measure.

### **Protection Areas**

We maintain that the 'Protection Areas' contiguous with marine reserves should be treated as extensions to the marine reserves and gazetted as such under the Marine Reserves Act because:

- The protection measure has been scientifically proven to work.
- It's easier for the public to understand.
- Is the gold standard for marine protection.
- Provides a reference to benchmark **ALL** fishing impacts.
- We don't think the HPA legislation will provide meaningful gains in biodiversity and abundance (see below).



Moreover FoHG supports a similar extension be made the Tāwharanui marine reserve.

### **High Protection Areas (HPAs)**

The major instrument proposed in the initiative are the High Protection Areas. HPAs are legally undefined and presently have no status under law. We predict their establishment will not come without difficult procedural, political and legal difficulties. They are notable in that they will include built-in rights for Māori customary fishing practices. The nature of these 'customary practices' are undefined and will evidently depend on how iwi authorities choose to exercise them. One can confidently assume fishing will not be limited to customary technology and methods, instead the full range of modern (including commercial / bulk harvesting) technologies will likely be deployed.

Customary fishing in a supposedly 'High Protection Area', just like the proposed surface fishing in a Sea floor Protected Area undermines other limitations on fish exploitation. Fish populations are unlikely to be conserved to meaningful levels. If there are agreed limitations to customary take, ensuring compliance with future HPA rules will be difficult if not impossible to independently determined. More so given DOC's present management culture and lack of resources, which the department always points to in explaining its under-performance. The inherently divisive nature of this concept will become a lightning rod for community disaffection (especially given similar race-based government initiatives) and an un-needed distraction to the mission of marine conservation. If these problems are not honestly addressed and resolved, the so-called High Protection Areas (HPA)s are imposed they will in effect become fishing preserves rather like private game reserves in the United Kingdom. This is not what the public wants, nor what our country needs right now.

The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf's primary objective is nature conservation and whatever one thinks of the equity of the HPA / customary practice concept, our concern is that if these enable continued exploitation, they are unlikely to achieve any meaningful protection of fish populations and will therefore NOT 'Revitalise the Gulf'. If the Crown wishes to set aside reserve areas for customary fishing practices for instance as an outcome of customary title claims under the Marine & Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act (2011), that is the Crown's prerogative.

The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf urges the government to please not obfuscate the matter of claimed property rights of one section of the community with nature conservation. Imagine if the government under the guise of customary practice attempted to impose a regime expressly designed to enable sectional interest exploitation in our national and regional parks – 'Revitalising' our native forests by shooting pigeons and hunting kiwi with dogs?

Our message to the government then when it comes to marine conservation: please do not mislead the people of New Zealand and please do not mislead yourselves.

HPAs at present do not exist in law. They are novel experiments with contradictory, arguably conflicting objectives, this inherent conflict of objectives will likely subvert the stated intention of 'Revitalising the Gulf'. That is if the government intends the public to interpret the word 'revitalising' in terms of revitalising the natural environment of the Hauraki Gulf – and not something else entirely.

### **Marine reserves - existing statutory protection**

However, we do have legal, effective and proven mechanisms to enable protection and conservation of our marine environment. Most notably marine reserves. The Marine Reserves Act 1971 was world-leading legislation in its time and in its effectiveness, despite some ill-informed and often not disinterested criticism, has stood the test of time. Marine Reserves work.

A recent ground-breaking study by Auckland University has revealed rather dramatic evidence of the benefits of our oldest marine reserve Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (Leigh) Marine Reserve for the Hauraki Gulf snapper population (and by implication other marine biota). The paper states:

*“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

If the government is serious about 'Revitalising the Gulf' then we ask why are there not marine reserves included in the proposal?

A 2021 Horizon Research poll showed 77% support for 30% of the Hauraki Gulf to be put in Marine Protected Areas. Those polled understood these to be no-take. Friends of the Hauraki Gulf are very disappointed to hear that the government is considering that the no-take extensions to the existing marine reserves might be opened to exploitation.

Years of official inaction led to Friends of the Hauraki Gulf lodging an application for the first marine reserve in the Hauraki Gulf for 20 years. After a 10-month period of pre-notification consultation working with DOC, the final application was publicly notified under the Marine Reserves Act on 20 January this year. Within the two month submission period the application drew 1303 responses with a remarkable 93% of these in support.

70 % of submitters identifying as Māori were in support as was the tangata whenua Ngāti Paoa Trust Board and the local Piritahi Marae. On 20 April, complying with the deadlines set in the Marine Reserves Act, Friends of the Hauraki Gulf sent a Response to Objectors document to the Minister of Conservation.

We are disappointed that despite having well over a year to familiarise itself with the application, the deliberate speed of the deadlines set out in the Act, and most importantly the marine ecological crisis in the Gulf, DOC is 'slow walking' the application. Six months on has still not provided any written advice to the Minister to assist her to make a decision.

We would point out that it is doubtful that any measure in 'Revitalising the Gulf (timorous as they are in terms of real conservation gains) would draw the overwhelming level of support that the public has given the Hākaimangō-Matiatia (NW) Waiheke marine reserve. This overwhelming demonstration of public support is the real 'sea change'. Given all this, it is fair to ask the question: is the government's strategy to 'Revitalise of the Gulf' by conserving nature, or is that just a greenwashing label for shifting resource exploitation or revitalisation by continued exploitation? The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf believe the government can do better than this.

### **Our submission**

The Friends of the Hauraki Gulf therefore submits the following:

1. That fishing 'customary' or otherwise must not occur in any conservation or designated protected area. To favour one form of resource exploitation or group of exploiters over another is wrong in principle. To proceed otherwise is inequitable and flies in the face of the proven benefits of no-take marine protection and moreover undermines the credibility of stated conservation goals of the 'Revitalising the Gulf' initiative.
2. The proposed extensions to the Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) and Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (Leigh) marine reserves must be formally incorporated into the adjacent marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act and therefore given the statutory protection of no-take marine reserves. A similar extension of the Tāwharanui marine reserve, for the same reasons, should be included in the plan.
3. Finally, to give public credibility to the stated objective of 'Revitalising the Gulf' and to include the coastal marine area of Waiheke Island, the proposed Hākaimangō –Matiatia (NW Waiheke) Marine Reserve which has been through statutory public notification and has drawn overwhelming public support, needs to be formally adopted by the government and incorporated into the 'Revitalising the Gulf' plan.

[Please note: In regard to Point 3 of this submission, Friends of the Hauraki Gulf have organised an on-line petition. After being opened for just seven days prior to the close of this submission process it has gathered 250 signatories. The petition will be forwarded as an appendix to this submission once it has been completed.]

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

*Chairperson*

*Secretary*

## References

Friends of the Hauraki Gulf (2022). Hākaimangō-Matiatia (NW Waiheke). Report in support of an application for an order in council for a marine reserve (January 2022).

<https://friendsofhaurakigulf.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Hakaimango-Matiatia-Marine-Reserve.pdf>

Friends of the Hauraki Gulf (2022) . Response to Objections – Whakautu ki nga Whakahē (April 2022).

<https://friendsofhaurakigulf.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Response-to-Objections-to-the-Hakaimango-Matiatia-Marine-Reserve-sml-2.pdf>

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Qu, Zoe., Thrush, Simon, Parsons, Darren & Lewis, Nicolas 2021. Economic valuation of the snapper recruitment effect from a well-established temperate no-take marine reserve on adjacent fisheries. Marine Policy 134 1-8.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355080907\\_Economic\\_valuation\\_of\\_the\\_snapper\\_recruitment\\_effect\\_from\\_a\\_well-established\\_temperate\\_no-take\\_marine\\_reserve\\_on\\_adjacent\\_fisheries](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355080907_Economic_valuation_of_the_snapper_recruitment_effect_from_a_well-established_temperate_no-take_marine_reserve_on_adjacent_fisheries)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:48 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf : Marine Protection Proposals.  
**Attachments:** Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Areas submission 28 Oct 2022.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Please find attached, our submission in support of the proposals contained in the above document.

Nga mihi nui  
s 9 (2)(a)  
Chair CCRG  
[www.ccr.org.nz](http://www.ccr.org.nz)  
s 9 (2)(a)

Subject: Revitalising the Gulf : Marine Protection Proposals.  
Respondent: Auckland City Centre Residents Group  
Date: 28 October 2022  
Submission: See below

.....

The City Centre Residents Group (CCRG) was established in 2005 with the support of the former Auckland City Council. The purpose was to provide a strong residential voice for developments in the Auckland city centre area and specifically for projects/developments involving expenditure of the City Centre Targeted Rate (CCTR) that properties within the area pay annually.

Our interest in the Hauraki Gulf is extremely high as it is the key feature of what defines our city centre – both physically and historically.

We congratulate the Department of Conservation for the original proposals contained in the June 2021 Revitalising the Gulf – Government Action on the Sea Change Plan document.

We are especially supportive of the two overarching outcomes in the more recent Marine Protection Proposals that have been designed to deliver the revitalisation of the Hauraki Gulf, namely -

*The Strategy sets out the actions Government will take to restore the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (the Gulf), guided by two overarching outcomes:*

- *effective kaitiakitanga and guardianship in the Gulf, and*
- *healthy functioning ecosystems that:*
  - *underpin the wellbeing and prosperity of people who live, work and play in the Gulf*
  - *sustain healthy fisheries that replenish and enhance the pātaka kai (food basket) for customary, recreational and commercial uses*
  - *regulate, support and sustain the Gulf, and*
  - *support resilient and diverse habitats and marine life.*

*The Strategy drives change with multiple integrated actions. Government is committed to delivering:*

- *increased marine protection to allow the recovery of some of the most biodiverse regions in the Gulf*
- *New Zealand's first area-based fisheries plan tailored to the unique needs of the Hauraki Gulf*
- *wider seabed habitat protection by restricting trawling and other fishing methods*
- *increased shellfish abundance through harvesting restrictions and catch limits*
- *an expanded programme of protected species management*
- *a habitat restoration guide to better direct habitat restoration resources and initiatives*
- *increased participation of mana whenua and stakeholders in local fisheries management decisions*

- *Government supported mana whenua and local community projects to achieve local aspirations for nearshore environments (Ahu Moana)*
- *a prosperous, sustainable aquaculture industry and aligned biosecurity programmes.*

The establishment of 12 High Protection Areas, 5 Seafloor Protection Areas and 2 more protected areas adjacent to existing ones, are all pragmatic steps that will help stop the environmental decline that the Hauraki Gulf suffers due to human activities.

The CCRG also totally supports the submission of the Friends of the Hauraki Gulf below.

*1. That fishing 'customary' or otherwise must not occur in any conservation or designated protected area. To favour one form of resource exploitation or group of exploiters over another is wrong in principle. To proceed otherwise is inequitable and flies in the face of the proven benefits of no-take marine protection and moreover undermines the credibility of stated conservation goals of the 'Revitalising the Gulf' initiative.*

*2. The proposed extensions to the Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) and Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (Leigh) marine reserves must be formally incorporated into the adjacent marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act and therefore given the statutory protection of no-take marine reserves. A similar extension of the Tāwharanui marine reserve, for the same reasons, should be included in the plan.*

*3. Finally, to give public credibility to the stated objective of 'Revitalising the Gulf' and to include the coastal marine area of Waiheke Island, the proposed Hākaimangō–Matiatia (NW Waiheke) Marine Reserve which has been through statutory public notification and has drawn overwhelming public support, needs to be formally adopted by the government and incorporated into the 'Revitalising the Gulf' plan.*

The one focus that we think is missing from all of these documents is enforcement. Without this, all the words in the world will not save the Hauraki Gulf. To that end we all now need to see the next document in support of the June 2021 proposals to specify how protection of the Hauraki Gulf will be **enforced** and the role that citizens/residents may be able to take in that process.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Marine Protection Proposals for our prized Hauraki Gulf and look forward to working with the Department of Conservation to support all of the recommendations and outcomes above.

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

Chairperson

Auckland City Centre Residents Group

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:48 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Feedback on "revitalise the Hauraki Gulf marine protection"  
**Attachments:** Submisison\_s 9 (2)(a)\_revitalise the Hauraki Gulf marine protection.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Tēnā koe,

Please find a submission attached from s 9 (2)(a)

**Postal & physical address:**

s 9 (2)(a)

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

**Phone:** s 9 (2)(a)

Ngā mihi nui,

s 9 (2)(a)



**Submission on: Revitalising the Gulf & Personal Marine Protection Proposals October 2022**

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

I wish to support the intention of the proposed Revitalisation of the Gulf proposals to halt the degradation of the Gulf and to assist in the regeneration of the ecosystems which have been so damaged by past personal and legislative neglect.

I have been an active user of the gulf for the past seventy years and have been a witness to the dramatic changes we have allowed to take place in my lifetime.

I use the gulf as a recreational sailor and as a naturalist and underwater snorkel diver. We have a family holiday bach on the s 9 (2)(a), and from this location enjoy the benefits of the Regional Parks which adjoin the Gulf and we participate in Planting and weeding in these Parks and on Motuora Island.

During this time I have been witness to the well documented reduction in sea life variety on the coastal edges, both seaweed and kelp and their associated fish and marine life inhabitants.

I support all 19 new areas of protection but can not accept that this new total area is adequate.

Increasing the protected gulf areas from 6% to 18% after such a long wait to do anything is in my opinion too timid a proposal.

I accept there is a very strong lobby to do nothing which makes your task difficult. This is largely from those who will take until species are extinct or habitats damaged beyond repair.

Many people can not see nor imagine what is beneath the surface of the water. What comes up on the end of their line, or in their net is the sum total of life in the marine ecosystem for them.

We can not wait until everyone understands the significance of the current harvesting of marine life for human consumption just because the effects are not visible from the deck or shore.

Captain Cook and his men enjoyed roast Kakapo 150 years ago in Dusky Sound but this practice was soon deemed unacceptable when settlers saw numbers plummeting with the arrival of predators adding to human predation and habitat depletion.

No one now would agree that Kakapo and Kiwi should be protected by “no take” zones in just 18% of their remaining habitat. Do we need to wait until near extinction of these coastal

ecosystems before we offer protection to them in No take areas bigger than those offered in this current proposal?

Kina barrens stretching to the Mokohinaus on the Gulf perimeter suggest we may have already waited too long to save some species.

2. In addition to the 19 HPA I would like to see the waters around our existing Island sanctuaries for birds and reptiles included.

Tiritiri Matangi, Hauturu, Rakitu, Motuihi Islands should all be surrounded by “no take” protected areas.

In particular the HPA 10a extended South to enclose Motuora Island where Gannet and Diving Petrel colonies are establishing, and Little Blue Penguins nest.

3. I would like to see HPA status extended to the coast lines of all Regional Parks within the Gulf but for those not already protected this could allow fishing by hand from the shore but exclude netting and mechanised long line fishing. ie. Kontiki or torpedo style line fishing.

4. Area 10b should be substantially changed to make the most of this HPA. This area is heavily fished by recreational fisherman from small boats easily accessed from local highly populated beaches.

I suggest a 200m zone extending from the MLW line be reserved for line fishing from the shore, and netting and motorised Kontiki line fishing and boat fishing be prohibited from this area.

5. The Mahurangi Harbour with its many Mangrove Inlets should have protection to allow fish and shellfish breeding for the future benefit of all the Hauraki Gulf.

In 1975 two one ton catches of snapper were taken from inside Saddle Island at the entrance to the Mahurangi Harbour on two consecutive evenings by net. (personal communication with a commercial fisherman). Snapper once fed there on vast scallop beds which no longer exist.

I suggest that a HPA be created for the length of the northern shore of the Mahurangi Harbour from Sadler Point to Hamilton Landing and from this point no take to the Warkworth township. An exemption would be required to enable current dredging to continue to keep the upper reaches to Warkworth flowing at an acceptable depth to save this waterway from silting up until such time as sedimentation flowing into the river is controlled.

6. I support the proposal to increase the areas of the two existing Protected Areas, at Goat Island and Cathedral Cove.

These reserves have demonstrated over many years their value in restoration of marine ecosystems within the reserve and in adding fish stocks over a wide range of habitat throughout the Gulf.

I have personally approached a Commercial fishing vessel which I had thought was fishing well within the Goat Island reserve only to be advised that their coordinates were just metres outside the reserve and that they were therefore fishing legally.

These reserves have an educational role to play. Introducing the public to what natural marine ecosystems look like and enabling them to think how that differs from their experience of other beaches/ coastlines that they have encountered. This knowledge makes it more likely that these people will understand the role of legislation to protect our environment in the future.

I would like you to know that I have received an email from an organisation called the “Gulf Users Group” urging me to make a submission opposing the Gulf revitalisation proposals.

Their grounds for rejecting the HPA areas are that customary fishing rights for indigenous people are unfair to them as recreational fishermen..

I disagree with their objection for three reasons.

i) Customary rights are set out in different legislation relating to Treaty Settlements and these rights I understand are not negotiable and stand aside whatever legislation we bring in to protect the Hauraki Gulf.

ii) I believe the indigenous people have shown in recent years their understanding of protection of the land and the oceans is far greater than the population of NZ as a people, and they have the commitment and support of their people to make the right decisions and to enforce those decisions when made.

I cite two examples of this.

a. Rahui over the Waitakere Ranges to protect the Kauri forest. 2019.

Whilst the reason for this fungus killing our ancient forests remains poorly understood a significant possible cause for its spread was widely speculated. That being human footprints. A European dominated Waitakere City Council at the time was unable to put their concern for reelection aside and make what was going to be an unpopular decision to enforce their constituents to stop walking through diseased forest and into other areas of forest where the disease may potentially spread and kill that kauri in that forest ecosystem.

This unpopular decision was left to the elders of the Te Kawerau a Maki whose land this Centennial Park stands in and to this day almost the entire population of Auckland abide by their

decision and do not walk in the park that has been theirs to tramp, picnic, and visit in for over one hundred years.

- b. In January this year the Iwi Ngati Paoa, the tangata whenua of Waiheke Island placed a two year Rāhui on the taking of four endangered species from the waters surrounding Waiheke Island in the Gulf. Crayfish, scallops, mussels and paua.

As you know, appropriate protection for our endangered Gulf has been debated since 2017. In this time another five years of depletion of fisheries has taken place and still no definite protection.

Tangata whenua are leading the way in conservation. They have had one thousand years perhaps to observe the degradation of our Gulf and have reached a point where they accept that action is required, no matter how unpopular that decision may be.

I have full confidence in tangata whenua using their Customary Rights to oversee the impact they are having on the marine ecosystem they are guardians of and taking whatever steps are necessary to care for it.  
Steps they have clearly demonstrated in recent years they are both capable of and prepared to take..

Yours faithfully,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** NZCA  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:49 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** NZCA submission - Revitalising the Gulf: Marine protection proposals  
**Attachments:** NZCA submission - Hauraki Gulf DOC Marine protection proposals - Oct 2022.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora

Please see attached the NZ Conservation Authority's submission on DOC's marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf.

Ngā mihi

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

NZCA Servicing Officer / Āpiha Hāpai Mana Kaupapa Atawhai Aotearoa  
New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa  
PO Box 10420 | Wellington 6143  
E: [nzca@doc.govt.nz](mailto:nzca@doc.govt.nz)

# CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

### *Revitalising the Gulf:* Marine protection proposals

#### SUBMISSION FROM THE NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Date	28 October 2022
To	<a href="mailto:seachange@doc.govt.nz">seachange@doc.govt.nz</a>
Name of organisation	New Zealand Conservation Authority
Contact Person	s 9 (2)(a), Executive Officer
Postal address	s 9 (2)(a)
Telephone	s 9 (2)(a)
Email address	<a href="mailto:nzca@doc.govt.nz">nzca@doc.govt.nz</a>

### The Legislative Basis for the New Zealand Conservation Authority submission

1. The New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao o Aotearoa (**Authority, NZCA**) was established under the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**), with members appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It is an independent statutory body with a range of functions, but primarily acts as an independent conservation advisor to the Minister and the Director-General of Conservation.
2. The Authority has a role as an objective advocate on matters of national significance and interest in the conservation arena and to provide high quality independent advice to the Department of Conservation (**Department, DOC**) on its strategic direction and performance.
3. The Authority has a range of powers and functions, under the Act, as well as under other conservation related legislation. Section 6C(2)(c) of the Act provides the Authority with the power to “advocate the interests of the Authority at any public forum or in any statutory planning process.”
4. Following the logic of the above powers and functions, the Authority submits on the Department’s Marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf.

### NZCA Submission

5. The NZCA’s submission is based on its analysis of:
  - *Sea Change Plan Tai Timu Tai Pari, 2017*
  - *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan, 2021*
  - *Revitalising the Gulf: Marine protection proposals, 2022*
6. The NZCA recognises the importance of addressing marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf given the many pressures and stressors that the region experiences. Measures to protect and secure the long-term well-being and productivity of the Hauraki Gulf, and to

achieve restoration of the ecosystem services in the Gulf, have been a very long time in coming. It has taken years of work, consultation, and commitment by many people to get to this point, and Authority acknowledges the work that has gone into the proposals.

### Integrated management

7. In the view of NZCA the proposals should consider the interconnectedness of the Hauraki Gulf and the need for integrated protection at appropriate scales. Currently, the proposals focus on each High Protection Area (**HPA**) separately, however, given the size and description of each HPA, there is limited benefit and value in identifying and developing biodiversity objectives for each independent site. There are both biodiversity and management objectives, and these need to be distinguished.
8. **The NZCA submits that** the ecological and biodiversity values and objectives that are being sought (such as protecting sensitive and representative habitats, preventing extinctions, building more resilient coastal communities and ecosystems that are better able to withstand pressures and threats, and maintaining ecosystem services) need to be identified for the whole region.
9. **The NZCA submits that**, once these objectives are in place for the Gulf in its entirety, conservation management objectives (involving customary interests, research needs, and habitat restoration steps/interventions, if locally appropriate) would need to be developed for each HPA to enable monitoring of progress and to inform where objectives for the Gulf as a whole require further attention/mechanisms to achieve Gulf-scale protection.
10. **The NZCA supports** the additional protection adjacent to current marine reserves *Cape Rodney-Okakari Point* and *Whanganui-a-Hei* to reduce the pressures at the boundaries, as well as increasing the areas protected and extending the nature and range of habitats receiving protection.
11. **The NZCA supports** advancing the proposal for protection of Ōtata /Noises, which has been advanced by community members and supported with guidance from Tāmaki Paenga Hira/Auckland Museum.
12. The Authority is deeply concerned by the negative impacts of fishing methods that contact the seafloor and damage benthic ecosystems such as bottom trawling, Danish seining, and dredging. The impacts of such methods are very clearly demonstrated by the terrible damage wrought by the dredging of the subtidal beds of mussels from the early 1900s to the 1960s that destroyed biogenic habitats and resulted in a major ecosystem change to the seafloor of the Hauraki Gulf. **The NZCA submits** that stronger provisions to limit seafloor contact must be included in the protection plans for the Gulf.

### An accountable protection system

13. In the view of NZCA it is important that there are clear and measurable goals and timeframes built into the proposals in order to evaluate progress and have an accountable protection system.
14. **The NZCA is concerned** that the inclusion of the Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Hauraki Gulf marine protection legislation will undermine the work that has been done to ensure that New Zealand is reporting marine protection appropriately, and will set an unacceptable precedent in doing so.
15. SPAs are fisheries management tools and they do not meet marine protection criteria, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Marine Protection Area standards, or the Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM). It is important that SPAs are not included in the way in which New Zealand reports its marine protection to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World

Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). **The NZCA submits that** SPAs should be removed from explicitly protection-focussed legislation.

16. In terms of governance, the NZCA considers that it is important that the management of the Hauraki Gulf is considered in an integrated way. We recognise this is complex given the number of HPAs, and the aspirations of mana whenua, and diverse community interests.

#### Responsiveness to contemporary issues and developing research

17. There are many stressors confronting marine ecosystems and the rate of change in environmental variables (e.g. marine heat waves, ocean acidification, increased frequency and intensity of storm events) mean that legislation will need to be responsive to current and emerging threats. **The NZCA submits that** there will need to be clear pathways identified in which additional areas can be proposed and assessed to add to the HPAs, without having to wait for additional legislation.
18. To achieve effective management there needs to be resources to support research that addresses information gaps, and monitoring to enable evaluation of the effectiveness of the protection mechanisms. These streams of information and analysis need to be fed into the management framework so that, if necessary, protection mechanisms can be modified if needed to achieve the desired objectives and vision for the Gulf.



## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:49 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

Some suggestions below:

After snorkelling in marine reserves around the North Island the difference between the protected areas and the non protected areas are staggering, the amount of marine life and clarity of water. I would like my Grandchildren and future generations enjoy what I and past generations have enjoyed, this can only be achieved with protection and management.

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:50 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf plan submission  
**Attachments:** Submission for revitalising the gulf plan.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi

Attached is my submission for the Hauraki gulf plan.

I am contactable via email to the departments involved, but wish my contact details removed to the public, if made publicly available.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission for revitalising the gulf plan.

- s 9 (2)(a)
- Submitting on behalf of myself, not affiliated with any organisation.
- s 9 (2)(a)

The plan is a good start to protect the gulf for the future. Introducing high protection areas punishes recreational fishers, when they are not the problem. The plan does also not go far enough to rebuild stocks, especially crayfish. The gulf is a large area, but there are so few crayfish left that all the commercial fishers all congregate in the same small areas and are overfishing the few remaining spots left. They will be all gone soon.

As a recreation fisher I object to the high protection areas (HPA) being installed for these reasons:

- I regularly fish these areas and there is no lack of fin fish currently, there are better ways to protect for the future than a recreational ban in areas that I fish.
- The Mokohinau islands and to a degree, the top of the coromandel (Colville) are the holy grail to Hauraki gulf based fishers. Most recreational fishers get to visit here very infrequently and take minimal fish. This is a special place for recreational fishers and it would be soul destroying to lose this. There is no shortage of fish here at the moment, but I agree some protection could be added to protect for the future, but this can be done without a blanket ban on recreational fishing by introducing HPA areas.
- Recreational fishers do not have much impact on stocks at the moment.
- It would be racist and create disharmony to allow customary fishing in these areas but not allow anyone else to fish recreationally to put food on the table.

Proposed alternative:

- Remove all HPA areas and make the full Hauraki gulf a full seafloor protection area to protect the seafloor and habitat
- Reduce recreational limit to max of 6 snapper per person per day to help build fishstocks to a higher density for the future. A reduction to 6 would encourage people to use the whole fish rather than just fillets.
- Reduce Kingfish limit to max of one per boat per day as above.
- Reduce commercial fishing catch limits as above
- Licence charter operators to fish the Mokohinau islands with a code of conduct that encourages catch and release especially for Kingfish, and limits the number of trips per operator. The Mokohinau have the potential to be exploited by too many charter trips. This is evident in the Facebook posts of charter operators who go often and catch kingfish on every trip. Why should recreational fishers who visit very infrequently and who are not putting any fishing pressure on the area, be punished for others financial gain. Some operators are good, some are bad. A mandatory code of conduct and licence for charter operators to fish here would address this.
- Crayfish, scallop, and Paua take ban for 5 years, both recreational and commercial to rebuild stocks. Action needs to happen fast.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:52 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** feedback revitalising the gulf submission  
**Attachments:** SeaChange MPA Slipper 281022.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Sea Change Feedback

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



# Sea Change-Tai Timu Tai Pari Plan. Marine Protected Area (MPA)

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

Organisation: s 9 (2)(a)

This proposal for marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf is inspirational in the sense of its purpose *“to establish a network of MPAs to assist the protection and passive restoration of at risk, high value and representative ecosystems in the HGMP and to boost the abundance of fish stocks”*.

However, this proposal is lacking in scientific data and the conjoint research, along with wider communities input, to back up the proposal to achieve protection and restoration of marine habitats and ecosystems of the Hauraki Gulf.

Any further proposal should be with consultation of the findings of the upcoming Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, due to take place from November to February 2023.

I overall **SUPPORT** Marine Protection Areas working with communities and mana whenua to establish seabed protection.

## **SITE 7 SLIPPER ISLAND / WHAKAHAU MARINE RESERVE**

Of particular interest is the proposal for a marine reserve around Slipper Island (Whakahau). The s 9 (2)(a). Throughout our time of ownership, my Parents and family members have seen first hand that there has been a decline in health of the seabed, with dwindling biodiversity of sea creatures and sea birds. This decline has escalated in the more recent years.

It is to be noted that the general population of the coromandel, particularly Tairua-Pauanui-Whangamata towns have swelled to numbers which was once the ‘summer crowds’ are now the winter norm. There is often forty or more boats anchored in South Bay over public holiday periods. Over the summer period, a ferry from Whangamata brings boat loads of people to encounter the beaches, and to fish and forage around the shores of Slipper. Tourism out of Home Bay and Camping at South Bay creates extra pressure on sea food gathering. Being so close to the mainland, recreational jet skis, fishing jet skis & kayaks, and even paddle boarders on a nice day, frequent the island.

This population swell has increased the pressure on the ecosystem around Slipper Island. The seabeds around the rocky shores of the island are extensively covered in kina, implying a depletion of their predators - rock lobster and snapper.

There is no regular spot checking of catch from around Slipper and surrounding islands, or presence by the Ministry of Fisheries.

A Marine Reserve for Slipper and surrounding smaller islands has been floated by various local communities for the past 40 years. Sadly this has been without any formal recognition or gained any traction until this proposal.

### **Sea Change Plan Proposal for Slipper Island**

I SUPPORT adjusting the boundaries of a MPA to INCREASE the area, with a design of further including the boulder bank along the eastern - north eastern shore, Watchmans Rock, Rabbit & Penguin Islands with associated rocky reefs and adjust the western boundary to include the rocks below the light house on Slipper's western shoreline.

Providing distinctive landmarks for recognition of the boundary, alongside with land based 'triangles' or markers, would give clear 'line -of -sight' indicating the straight line boundaries of the reserve. Taking into consideration the wide level of technology available (ie GPS mapping) of an area such a MPA, lots of small crafts, boats and jet skis do not have this technology to prevent inadvertently fishing or harvesting within the MPA.

I SUPPORT measures to protect seagrass beds from direct physical disturbance, and direct pressures on the sea grass (*Zostera muelleri*) meadow such as anchoring and dredging. Current consented swing moorings could be modified and designed to be in alignment with good practice to preserve sea grass beds, along with reducing the number of moorings and their location. Amphibious boats and trailer parking would reduce the requirement for moorings by Slipper Island Residents.

Providing a 'No Anchor Area' would provide some protection. This proposal would require a change in the thinking of itinerant boats, boat clubs and locals who have had unlimited access to Slipper Island Bays in the past. There is a critical safety perspective, that an area of safe anchorage be available to all boats.

### **Alignment with existing legislation and policy**

I REJECT the proposal to define the MPA of Slipper Island as a **high protection area**. With consideration to engagement with mana whenua going forward with a MPA proposal, a **no take** proposal would be preferable. It is understood that of the 12 iwi of Hauraki region, of which Slipper Island (Whakahau) falls under, five have an interest in the ongoings on and around Slipper. Of the five, the two most prominent mana whenua, Ngati Maru and Ngati Hei would potentially have an enormous task of controlling compliance of a high protection area.

Preservation and protection of wāhi tapu sites and highly significant archaeological sites on Slipper Island are currently poorly managed. It has been difficult to engage mana whenua and other interested parties to oversee these cultural sites.

I SUPPORT a proposal that also includes the vision of 'Predator Free' by 2050, or sooner, which could include Slipper, Watchman, Rabbit and Penguin Islands as sanctuaries.

### **Marine Reserve Objectives**

I SUPPORT further studies and research to identify the full range of marine communities and biodiversity of Slipper Island. It is noted that 'uncertain and or unknown' data was used to comply this proposal.

*There is current research and studies done on the seabeds around Slipper. These studies have been carried out over the past 18 or so years by staff and students from the Tauranga Polytechnic (now known as Toi Ohomai Institute of technology). **It is surprising that this resource has not been used.** I understand their studies on and around Slipper Island involve counting species and species numbers, sea bed mapping and included monitoring of the sea grass (*Zostera muelleri*) meadow. I SUGGEST making contact with the Marine Studies department at Toi Ohomai for further information and inspiration.*

A MPA of Slipper Island WOULD provide even greater opportunities for the enjoyment of restored marine environment through education, and sustainable recreation and tourism.

### **Existing users affected by the proposed Slipper Island MPA**

#### **Commercial Fishing**

I SUPPORT all commercial fishing prohibited.

Commercial fishing takes place in the waters between Watchmans Rock and Slipper Island, as well as around the smaller islands. I propose a future 100% sea bed protection for the area Pāāku - Shoe Is - Slipper Is - Rabbit Is- Oppoture Beach.

#### **Recreational Fishing**

I SUPPORT all recreational fishing prohibited within the MPA.

The buffer around the MPA and 'fishing the line' would be more advantageous to fisherman looking to catch a feed, or for more sustainable catch & release.

#### **Anchoring**

I SUPPORT limiting anchoring to specific areas to protect the subtidal seagrass.

*In Summary,*

I overall SUPPORT a proposed marine reserve for site 7 Slipper Island / Whakahau.





## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:53 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission - Hauraki Gulf Revitalise the gulf rejection

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi,

This submission represents the views of the entire organisation

I have owned my own commercial snapper longliner vessel- fishing out of Whitianga as a home port, for the last 12yrs and been a fisherman for 20yrs. I have witnessed firsthand the snapper population in the Hauraki Gulf Marine park is on the increase. I have even wondered if the abundance of snapper and their aggressive feeding behaviour is impacting other species.

I REJECT the government proposals in favour of 100% seabed protection

I do not support the Government-proposed Marine Protection proposal for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park because I don't believe that MPA,s are the answer to fisheries management. Locking up a substantial reef areas in particular 9A and 9B will inturn shift effort in other reef areas that are not under a reserve which will have damaging consequences from overfishing.

I object to the lack of information and detail around the proposal and implementation plan.

If I understand the proposal correctly these reserves would still allow customary take which contradicts the proposal plan in the first place. As New Zealanders we should be treated equally if marine protection areas were to go ahead.

I support extending the consultation deadline for marine protection to align with the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan process which ends in February 2023

Happy to discuss further via email or phone.

Cheers

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:53 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

I wholeheartedly support the introduction of new marine and seafloor protection areas to restore the mauri (life-force) of Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and urge the government to proceed to the next stage.

We have experienced the obvious benefits of marine protection at reserves such as the Poor Knights. These include but are not limited to, protection of biodiversity, abundant life and increased productivity, fisheries spillover through egg and larval movement, increased resilience against ocean stressors such as climate change and sedimentation, and the provision of a measurable benchmark of ocean health. From a social perspective, protected areas provide opportunities for science and education, to connect New Zealander's with te Moana and for the protection of cultural values. They also provide significant economic value through recreational and tourism opportunities, increased visitor numbers, and considerable economic growth in townships adjacent to the marine protected areas.

The implementation of this proposal will increase the Highly Protected Areas from 0.3% to 6% of the Gulf. Although this is still a far cry from achieving the 30% protection that will ensure the longevity of resources, it is a step in the right direction. The current health of Tikapa Moana is unacceptable, with kōura (crayfish) now considered functionally extinct, a 93% reduction in scallop populations in the last 10 years, prolific kina barrens, and 20% of our seabirds threatened with extinction including fairy terns and black petrels.

It is disappointing to see that the scientific community was not adequately consulted in the placement of proposed Marine Protected Areas and that such a large proportion was designated due to commercial convenience rather than biodiversity value. The majority is also not adjacent to the coastal mainland, meaning the reserves are less accessible to New Zealanders.

In saying that, the implementation of this proposal puts us on a positive trajectory to achieving future change. If we are able to restore a thriving marine environment adjacent to the largest population in New Zealand, we can act as a global leader in this space, showing it is possible to achieve positive outcomes for multiple stakeholders.

Nga mihi nui,

s 9 (2)(a)

Ngā mihi nui / Dhanyabad / Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Keep up to date with The Himalayan Trust, get [Mail by Runner](#).

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:57 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf submission

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To whom it may concern

I support further protection for the Hauraki Gulf waters and seabed. So many forms of life have been lost from the Gulf over the years.

We have seen the comparison from snorkeling at Goat Island marine reserve and Matai Bay reserve which graphically show that marine life can be restored by protecting breeding grounds which then restock surrounding areas. It would be wonderful for the Gulf too. Not just fish species but also invertebrates and mammals.

I wholeheartedly support the creation of protection zones.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 1:57 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on proposed MPAs for Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

I wholeheartedly support the introduction of new marine and seafloor protection areas to restore the mauri (life-force) of Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and urge the government to proceed to the next stage.

We have experienced the obvious benefits of marine protection at reserves such as the Poor Knights. These include but are not limited to, protection of biodiversity, abundant life and increased productivity, fisheries spillover through egg and larval movement, increased resilience against ocean stressors such as climate change and sedimentation, and the provision of a measurable benchmark of ocean health. From a social perspective, protected areas provide opportunities for science and education, to connect New Zealander's with te Moana and for the protection of cultural values. They also provide significant economic value through recreational and tourism opportunities, increased visitor numbers, and considerable economic growth in townships adjacent to the marine protected areas.

The implementation of this proposal will increase the Highly Protected Areas from 0.3% to 6% of the Gulf. Although this is still a far cry from achieving the 30% protection that will ensure the longevity of resources, it is a step in the right direction. The current health of Tikapa Moana is unacceptable, with kōura (crayfish) now considered functionally extinct, a 93% reduction in scallop populations in the last 10 years, prolific kina barrens, and 20% of our seabirds threatened with extinction including fairy terns and black petrels.

It is disappointing to see that the scientific community was not adequately consulted in the placement of proposed Marine Protected Areas and that such a large proportion was designated due to commercial convenience rather than biodiversity value. The majority is also not adjacent to the coastal mainland, meaning the reserves are less accessible to New Zealanders.

In saying that, the implementation of this proposal puts us on a positive trajectory to achieving future change. If we are able to restore a thriving marine environment adjacent to the largest population in New Zealand, we can act as a global leader in this space, showing it is possible to achieve positive outcomes for multiple stakeholders.

Ngā mihi nui,

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 2:00 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora,

I wholeheartedly support the introduction of new marine and seafloor protection areas to restore the mauri (life-force) of Tikapa Moana, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and urge the government to proceed to the next stage.

We have experienced the obvious benefits of marine protection at reserves such as the Poor Knights. These include but are not limited to, protection of biodiversity, abundant life and increased productivity, fisheries spillover through egg and larval movement, increased resilience against ocean stressors such as climate change and sedimentation, and the provision of a measurable benchmark of ocean health. From a social perspective, protected areas provide opportunities for science and education, to connect New Zealanders with te Moana and for the protection of cultural values. They also provide significant economic value through recreational and tourism opportunities, increased visitor numbers, and considerable economic growth in townships adjacent to the marine protected areas.

The implementation of this proposal will increase the Highly Protected Areas from 0.3% to 6% of the Gulf. Although this is still a far cry from achieving the 30% protection that will ensure the longevity of resources, it is a step in the right direction. The current health of Tikapa Moana is unacceptable, with kōura (crayfish) now considered functionally extinct, a 93% reduction in scallop populations in the last 10 years, prolific kina barrens, and 20% of our seabirds threatened with extinction including fairy terns and black petrels.

It is disappointing to see that the scientific community was not adequately consulted in the placement of proposed Marine Protected Areas and that such a large proportion was designated due to commercial convenience rather than biodiversity value. The majority is also not adjacent to the coastal mainland, meaning the reserves are less accessible to New Zealanders.

In saying that, the implementation of this proposal puts us on a positive trajectory to achieving future change. If we are able to restore a thriving marine environment adjacent to the largest population in New Zealand, we can act as a global leader in this space, showing it is possible to achieve positive outcomes for multiple stakeholders.

Ngā mihi nui,

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 2:02 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life  
**Attachments:** Submission on proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life - s 9 (2)(a).pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Recorded

Hi,

Please find attached my submission on the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Regards,

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

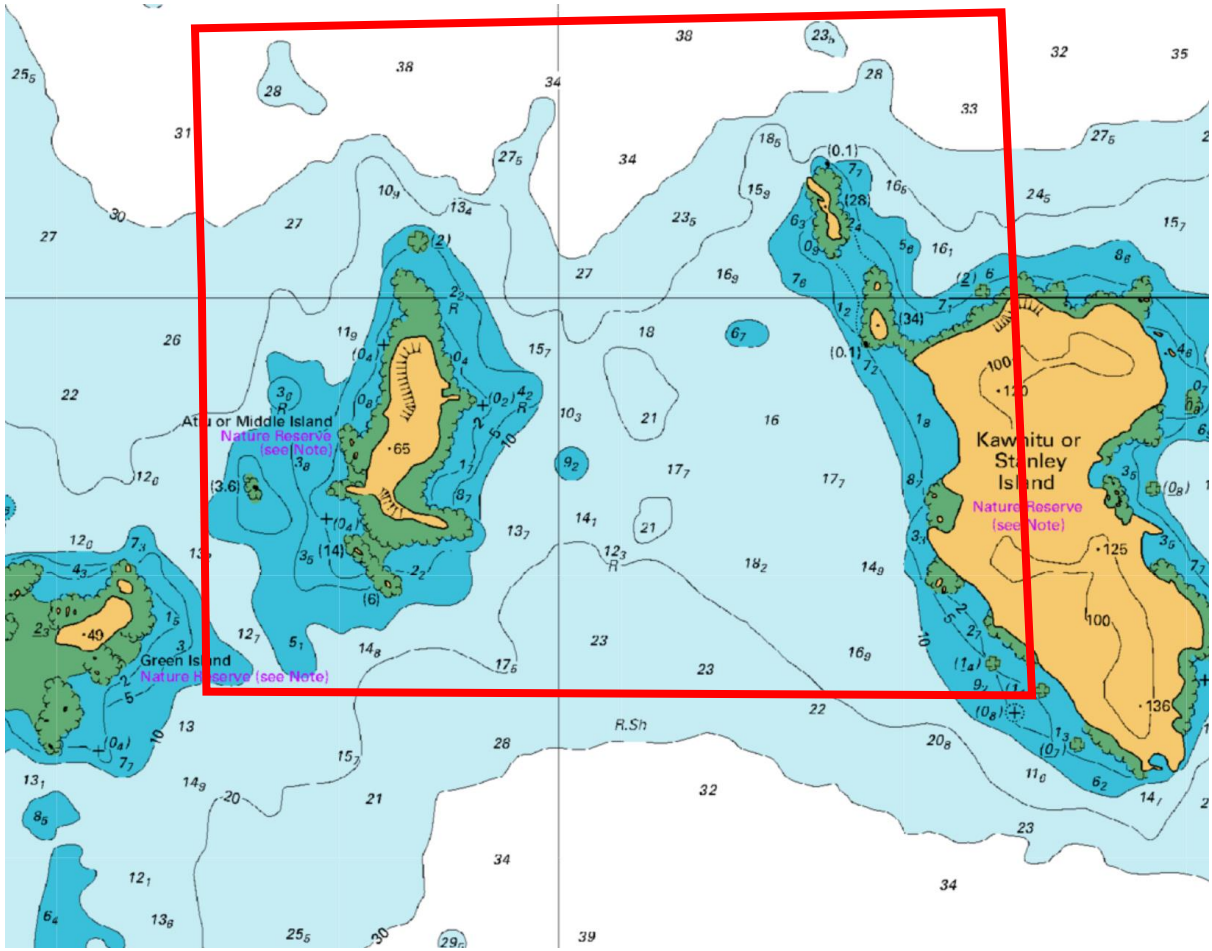


Submission on proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I am a user of the Hauraki Gulf Area, particularly in the East Coast of the Coromandel Peninsula area for the last 20-25 years. My predominant activities in this area include recreational spearfishing, fishing, scuba diving, and sailing. Over my time diving in this area, I have seen a clear decline in the abundance of marine life in the area around the Mercury Islands and East Coast of the Coromandel Peninsula in general.

I support the proposed increase of protection in the Hauraki Gulf area in general but have some specific comments/proposals.

1. Extension of Whanganui-a-Hei and Leigh Marine reserve area – These areas should be extended as **Marine reserves and not HPAs to extend the area of total no take zone**. Having dived with both reserves and directly outside the boundaries of these reserves there is a clear and stark contrast in the abundance of recreational species between the inside and directly outside of the reserve areas. Extension of these areas as Marine Reserves will also provide a good scientific opportunity to investigate ecosystem recovery rates with no external take pressure where an adjacent established no take area is present.
2. All proposed HPAs should be replaced with the full no take protection of a Marine Reserve to removal all external impacts on these areas to provide the greatest benefit to the Hauraki Gulf area with their closure to all extractive fishing/gathering.
3. Clarification is required around whether vessel anchoring is allowed in SPAs.
4. Extend the SPAs to cover the entirety of the Hauraki Gulf area to remove habitat destruction from bottom contact fishing (commercial and recreational) methods i.e., dredging and trawling.
5. Concern that closing relatively large recreational fishing areas is likely to put pressure on adjacent areas i.e. Areas 2, 9a and 9b are likely to result in increased pressure in the Mercury Bay/Mercury Island area. I believe that there is protection missing in the Mercury Island Group and propose that an additional Marine Reserve area is established in the Mercury Island Group potentially between Atiu/Middle Island and Kawhitu/Stanley Island (Proposed area below).



## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 2:02 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** revitalising the gulf marine protection.  
**Attachments:** s 9 (2)(a) submission marine protection .docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Please find my submission in support of the revitalising the gulf marine protection.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)  
Director

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

This email and any attachments are confidential to s 9 (2)(a) and its related companies. If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender immediately and delete the email and any attachments from your system. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use, distribute, amend, copy or rely on this email or any attachments.

 Good planets are hard to find. Please, don't print unless you need to.

## Submission for Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

John McConnell, s 9 (2)(a)

28.10.22

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I live in s 9 (2)(a) I have lived in s 9 (2)(a) for most of my life and during this time have greatly valued the outdoors and fabulous marine environment of the Hauraki Gulf.

I have a strong connection to Hauraki Gulf and its islands and believe that we are so fortunate to have this coastal recreation area that has been home to our extensive and unique water-life, marine animals and birds. I have been deeply saddened by the significant decline in the marine and bird life in the Gulf, that has been evident over the years and yet on the other hand hopeful and restored by the success of places like Deep Water Cove (Bay of Islands) and its restoration since the rahui began there a decade ago.

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.

With hope and thanks

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 October 2022 5:13 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission to the revitalise the Hauraki Gulf process  
**Attachments:** Submission s 9 (2)(a).pdf

**Categories:** To Upload, Recorded, Reply sent

Dear Sea Change,

Please find attached my submission to the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

Best regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

# Submission to the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life

Submission by:

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

**I am writing in support the Department of Conservations Marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi (the Gulf).**

I'm a sailor, diver, and high school teacher, teaching EfS (Education for Sustainability). I am also a PhD candidate with the University of Waikato School of Education, working on a thesis on climate change education, and I also have a degree in Physics. I have sailed the waters of the North East of New Zealand extensively since 1995 and have noted a significant decline in the abundance of ocean life and sea bird activity during the 27 years sailing these waters.

As a citizen activist, I organised the Coromandel Ocean Protection group and the 2021 community series of events featuring speakers from various positions on ocean protection, including the HGF.



A community discussion on improving the outlook for marine life in Coromandel waters.

**Contributors:**

- Joe Davis – Ngāti Hei
- Dr Tim Haggitt – Marine scientist – University of Auckland
- Sue Neureuter – Noises Island Trust
- Alex Rogers – Hauraki Gulf Forum
- Denis Tegg – Waikato Regional Council

June 5th 2021  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

C3 Church  
23 Coghill Street  
Whitianga

Free entry  
- koha welcome

For more information, email  
thomas.everth@gmail.com



## **I support the five proposed Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs)**

I support the Hauraki Gulf Forum's policy to remove all industrial bottom trawling and scallop dredging harvest techniques from the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. I also support petitions by the Hauraki Gulf Alliance in favour of this change. I argue that bottom-impact fishing:

- Disturbs the seafloor reducing complexity that is valuable to benthic life
- Kills plants & animals that build complex habitats
- Injures plants & animals, making them vulnerable to predation and disease (Heath, 2021)

Bottom-impact fishing also generates massive sediment plumes (to scare fish into the net) that:

- Prevent the ocean from sinking carbon (Sala et al., 2021)
- Choke sessile filter feeding animals
- Smother photosynthesising plants (Oberle et al., 2016; Pilskaln et al., 1998)

Please extend the five SPAs to cover the entire seafloor of the marine park. Any legislation used to create the SPAs must enable extensions to the five proposed areas.

**I support the 12 proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs) and the extension of existing MPAs, such as the extension of the Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve.**

### **The need for much larger areas of protection**

There is a growing consensus among ocean scientists that a substantial part of the oceans must be protected if humanity wishes to preserve the ocean ecosystems and prevent a looming collapse due to the confluence of increasing anthropogenic pressures from fishing, pollution and climate change, with many authors now calling for 30% or more of the oceans requiring protection (e.g., Jefferson et al., 2021; Kass, 2022; O'Leary et al., 2016; Sala et al., 2021).

This is especially so for coastal waters here in NZ, which are not only subject to commercial fishing but, in particular, in the densely populated Northeast of New Zealand and the Hauraki Gulf and the Coromandel Peninsula, Great Barrier Island and adjacent regions under a sustained impact from recreational fishing which for some species (e.g. Snapper) exceeds the commercial take.

### **Demonstrated value of local MPAs, significant spill-over effect**

There is ample evidence for the value and the need to have HPAs or MPAs. I refer to the MPA framework by Grorud-Colvert et al. (2021) and, with reference to research in New Zealand in particular, the research on the effectiveness of MPA's in raising overall population numbers far outside of the MPAs (Denny, 2003; Le Port et al., 2017; Qu et al., 2021).

Le Port et al. (2017), report on the effectiveness of the Goat Island MPA in boosting the population of Snapper over a large area. The authors state that despite its small size of only 5.2 km<sup>2</sup>, this MPA was responsible for providing over 10% of juvenile Snapper in a 400 km<sup>2</sup> area, "with no decreasing trend in contributions up to 40 km away" (p. 1). This significant spill-over effect was documented due to DNA analysis of fish sampled in the areas. The authors conclude that "the estimated larval contribution of this MPA is approximately an order of magnitude greater than would be expected if larval contributions were simply proportional to geographical area" (p. 7). The authors explain this effect by

referring to the “much higher densities of large, adult snapper observed inside MPAs” (p. 7) compared to outside of MPA, where the most fecund large fish are being continuously removed by fishers. The authors conclude that the effect of the spill-over population support over a wide area more than offsets the closure of the MPA to fishing for commercial and recreational fishing interests.

Qu et al. (2021), building on the work of Le Port et al. (2017), undertook an economic evaluation of the value of the Goat Island MPA for the surrounding fisheries and concluded that the MPA produced “a significant boost to the commercial fishery of \$NZ 1.49 million catch landing value per annum and \$NZ 3.21 million added from recreational fishing activity associated spending per annum” (p. 1) from only 0.08% of the marine space in the Hauraki Gulf. The authors calculated that “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” (p. 1).

It does not take much imagination to understand the remarkable impact a much greater protected area or network of MPAs would have, not only on the preservation of biodiversity locally but also on the value of the fishery in other regions beyond the MPAs.

### **Comment about recreational fishing interest in relation to MPAs and HPAs**

I note with concern the sustained public rhetoric from spokespersons of the recreational fishing interests against marine protected areas. Most often, these comments deny the demonstrated significant spill-over effect that MPAs have on the fish population elsewhere (Le Port et al., 2017). Further, it is argued by the recreational fishing interests that due to MPAs, the “pressure of fishing” would increase in non-protected areas.

Firstly, it should be noted that at the moment, the existing MPAs are minuscule in size when compared to the overall area in which recreational fishers fish, and further, should a much more significant percentage of our area become one day protected, this would need to go hand in hand with the management of the fishery in the remaining area to prevent overfishing there. It is no argument today against marine protected areas. As stated by Le Port et al. (2017) and Qu et al. (2021), the benefits of MPAs far outweigh the area reduction for recreational fishers.

Also, it should be noted that recreational fishing interests, while vocal and well-organised, make up only a small percentage of NZ’s overall population. In considering marine protection in general, the main concern should be the protection of the commonwealth of our oceans for all New Zealanders and especially for future generations, who will see most of the benefits of protection undertaken now. The self-serving and short-sighted entitlement thinking of special interest groups today should not prevent strong leadership from making significant progress for ocean protection.

### **Concerns that the 12 proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs) are too small**

I am concerned that the proposed HPAs and MPA extensions are nowhere near big enough to fulfil the 30% protection target sought by the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (30x30) and the science that underpins these ambitions. The Gulf MPA network needs to be much more ambitious (and work hand in hand with the Fisheries Management Plan) to restore abundance at the bottom of the food chain and stop declines in species that are going extinct at the top of the food chain.

I support the suggestions made by Shaun Lee to extend the suggested HPA and MPA areas in his submission.

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 October 2022 8:29 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Revitalization SUBMISSION s 9 (2)(a)

**Categories:** reply is needed, Reply sent, Recorded

Hi Team,

Submission in accordance with the proposed revitalising-the-gulf plan.

- Why does it constantly go from all go to full closures? Shouldn't there be steps taken to mitigate the effects as they arise? Shouldn't commercial fishing firstly be restricted to allow recreational fishing to continue and allow local people to still catch food? Shouldn't there be an extreme reduction in allowable catch prior to closure?

- Since the Tauranga marine reserves was introduced we have had an influx of fisherman and divers to our area. Are marine reserves the answer? We feel a reduced catch will have a much greater impact. The alderman islands and slipper island are accessed by boaties from Whitianga to Tauranga, if we create proposed reserves I am afraid they will be concentrated to the available areas which will get pillaged with increased take. The creation of marine reserves does not fix the problem of excess take and reducing catch quantities which seems to be the goal. Has a reduced daily catch quota been considered? I would like to see the daily catch limits first kingfish reduced to 1 per person, Rock Lobster three per person today, etc etc.

- Why are the reserves concentrated on the Aldermen and Slipper Islands? These locations don't make a whole lot of sense and are not very accessible and very exposed to weather conditions? Why have the Mercury Islands not been included or more accessible places? The Alderman Islands are only accessible half of the time due to weather conditions. Wouldn't there be much more benefit in the forms of tourism etc if we had a more accessible reserve for example on the coastline such as Sailors Grave? Anyone would be able to enjoy this without requiring a boat and be the perfect tourist destination rather than the bus ride or long walks currently happening at Cathedral Cove.

- This seems very rushed and have all options been considered? These marine reserves are not going to reduce fishing catch and take.

These are serious concerns with your proposal that I hope to get answered and taken seriously.

Kind 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:** Wednesday, 12 October 2022 8:50 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

:

[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 interest in marine reserves began with a paper at university, which made me realise how important it is to preserve and protect our amazing underwater environment. The Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana needs as much help as we can give it, and increasing marine protected areas would provide a solution that is urgently required. These will increase the abundance of marine diversity, allow affected populations to regenerate, improve the quality of the water, and recognise the importance of the gulf as a taonga of Auckland and New Zealand as a whole. It's an amazing place and I would love to see it given the protection to stay that way.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 October 2022 1:52 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Cathedral Cove marine reserve expansion feedback

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

Hello,  
I am a s 9 (2)(a) at s 9 (2)(a), here are my brief comments:  
(fyi, I am speaking for myself, no organisation)

In principle I agree with the proposed expansion of the so called Cathedral Cove marine reserve, for the benefits stated.

My concern is the proposal to extend the boundary to include about half the actual Hahei beachfront into the Reserve.  
That segment appears to be only about 5% of the proposed area expansion, yet it will likely generate maybe 95% of the opposition.  
(from folks wanting to continue surf-casting from the entire beach, and folks worried they'll potentially have restrictions placed on activities done on or from the north-west half of "our beach".

I can see the benefits of expansion to include the full north-western side of Mahurangi Island.

So my proposed compromise is for the new boundary to be from the south tip of Mahurangi Island across to the current Reserve marker post on the north-west tip of Hahei Beach. Thereby leaving Hahei Beach-front itself still outside the Reserve.

That compromise should remove what will be the majority of expected opposition, and make the Reserve expansion a much simpler and quicker process.  
It was a similar boundary compromise in 1992 that finally brought the Marine Reserve into existence (after much opposition).  
So why not use that compromise now to achieve a similar win-win result.

Cheers

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 October 2022 4:05 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Report on extending CROP and Tawharanui Marine Reserves  
**Attachments:** CROP & Tawharanui Marine Reserve Extension Report - s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a) thesis.pdf

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

**Categories:** unknwn status, Recorded, Reply sent, Forwarded

Kia ora Seachange

Two years ago we sponsored a summer research student to investigate the case for extending the existing Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve and the Tawharanui Marine Reserve and was initiated after some discussions we had with Ngati Manuhiri leadership. The project involved reviewing the existing scientific literature and some field surveys and found that there was a good case for extending both reserves to provide more holistic protection to key species in the reserve (especially resident rock lobsters that forage beyond the boundaries of the reserve) and the unique benthic habitats found in these offshore areas.

As a marine scientist it seems odd to me to be recommending extending one marine reserve for this set of reasons but not for the neighbouring marine reserve at Tawharanui – perhaps this needs some further consideration in the deliberations about improving the marine protection for this region of the Hauraki Gulf.

I have also included a recent MSc thesis which included fine scale analyses of benthic habitats in the CROP Marine Reserve.

Best wishes

s 9 (2)(a)

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

Ph +s 9 (2)(a)

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



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

REPORT BY s 9 (2)(a)

WITH GUIDANCE FROM s 9 (2)(a)



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

## **Abstract**

The Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari process several years ago resulted in a recommendation to extend the boundaries of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve from 800 m to 3.8 km offshore. Key predators such as red rock lobster, snapper and stingrays are vital to structuring the ecosystems within which these marine reserves are found. However, red rock lobsters, in particular, have undergone noticeable decline within the reserve, despite being protected inside it the reserve boundaries. Research has shown these mobile species are leaving the safety of the reserves and out onto reefs and deep soft sediment habitats further offshore, where they are vulnerable to capture by fishers. Furthermore, many of the soft sediment species inhabiting deeper waters are distinctive and are not protected within the current boundaries of either Cape Rodney - Okakari Point or Tāwharanui Marine Reserves. Expanding the marine reserves to include as much of the home range of key species, such as rock lobsters, will lessen cross boundary movement and therefore, restore their populations and the vital habitat structuring role they play within the marine reserve. While no formal recommendation has been made through the Sea Change process, there is also good evidence to suggest that there would also be benefit in extending the boundaries of the Tāwharanui Marine Reserve further offshore. This report explores the habitats and consequences of extending the boundaries of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves further offshore.

## **1. Background**

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

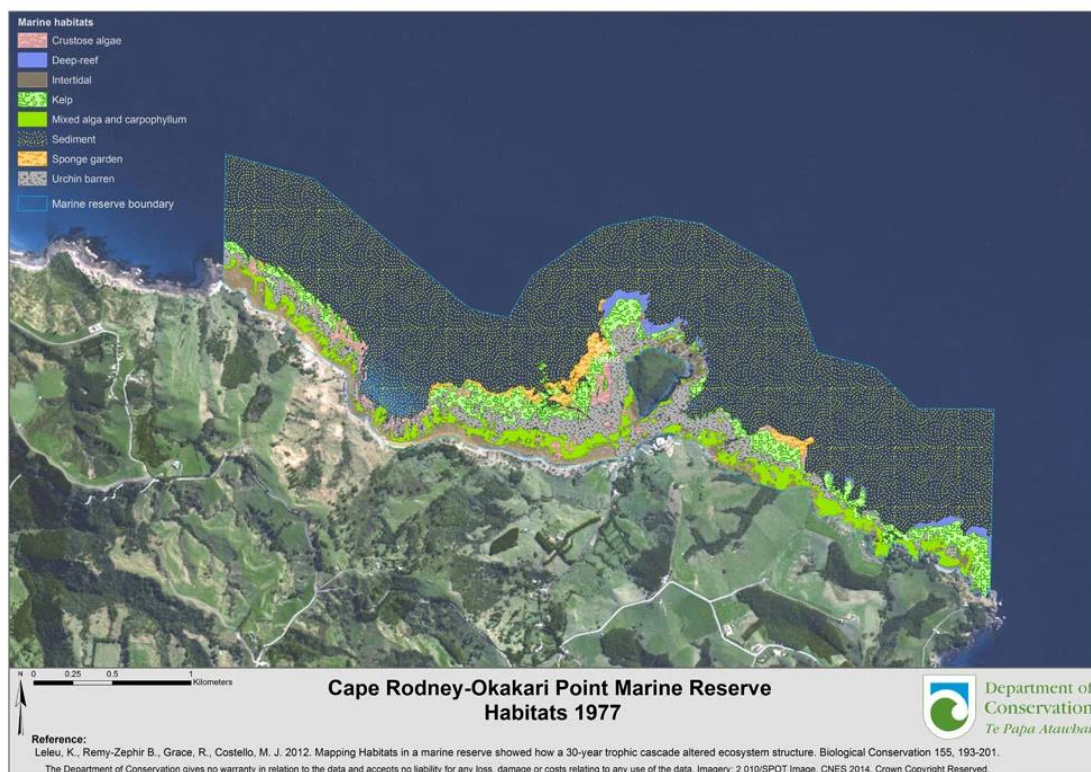
*“the purpose of preserving, as marine reserves for the scientific study of marine life, areas of New Zealand that contain underwater scenery, natural features, or marine life, of such distinctive quality, or so typical, or beautiful, or unique, that their continued preservation is in the national interest.”*

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

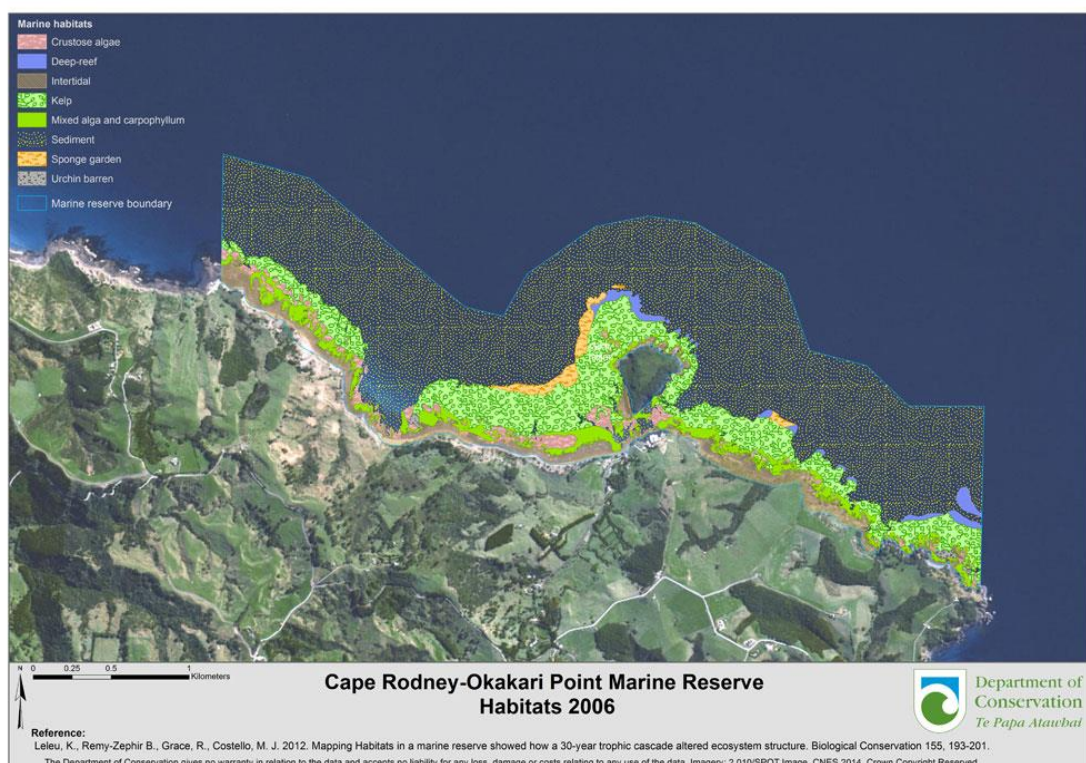
The following report examines the existing evidence for the possible benefits of extending the offshore boundaries of both the Cape Rodney - Okakari Point and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves to provide more effective protection of their biodiversity, habitats and overall ecosystem functioning.

## 1.1. Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve

Established in 1975, the Cape Rodney - Okakari Point (CROP) Marine Reserve is New Zealand's oldest marine reserve and it is often also called the Goat Island Marine Reserve (Department of Conservation 2020a). It extends seaward for 800 m from the shoreline, and along the coastline over 5 km from Okakari Point to Cape Rodney, protecting a total of 547 ha of coastal waters (Department of Conservation 2020a). The marine habitats on the hard inshore substrate are highly diverse and include rocky reefs, kelp forests, sponge gardens and sand flats (Department of Conservation 2020a; Figures 1a and 1b). Recent examination of the areas of soft sediment within the reserve confirm the diversity of habitats continues into deeper waters. Accordingly, the reserve supports extensive biodiversity with many of the species present within the reserve being endemic.

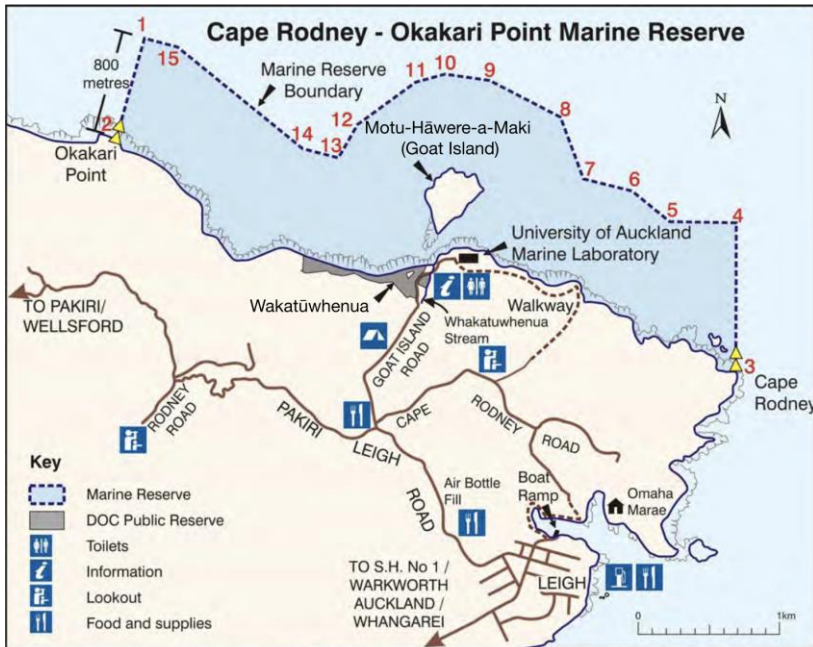


**Figure 1a.** Habitat map of Cape Rodney-Okakari Point area prepared 2 years after it was protected in 1975 (Leleu et al 2012).



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

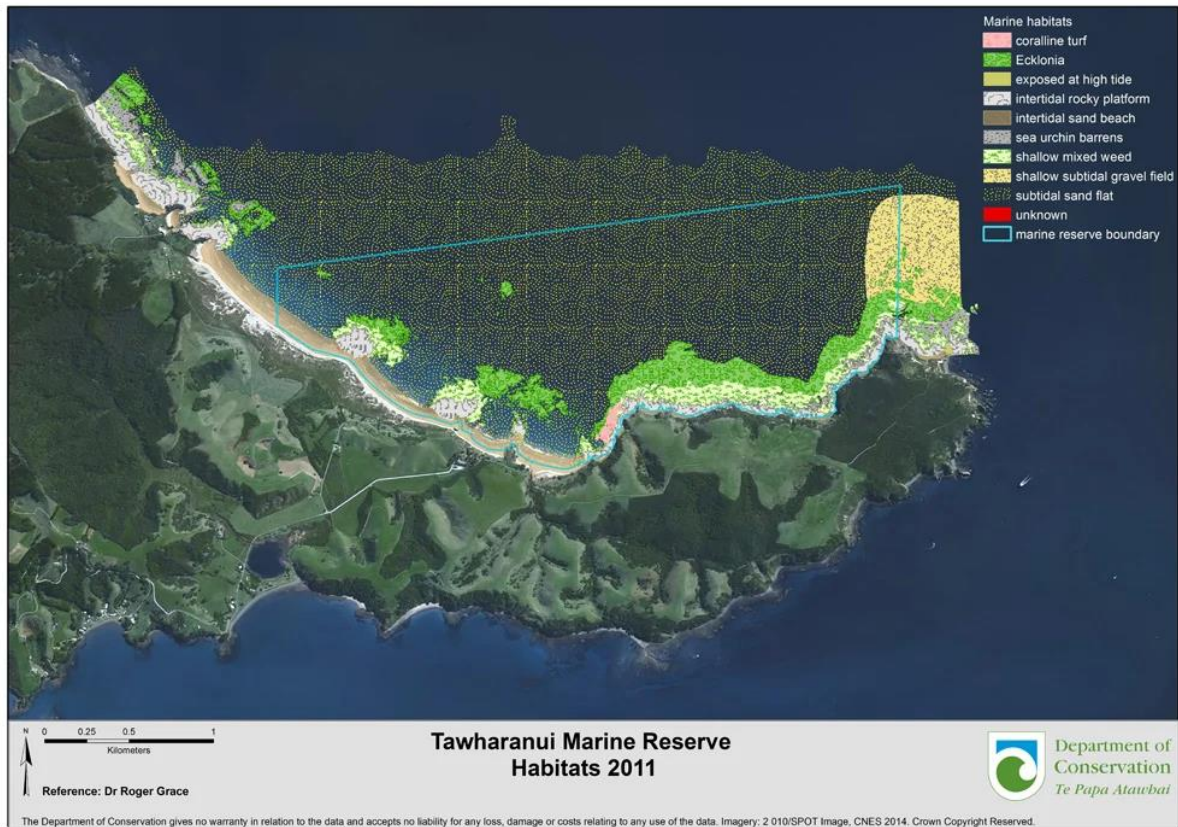
The land immediately adjacent to the marine reserve is known as Wakatūwhenua to mana whenua and is of immense cultural significance to Ngāti Manuhiri - the mana whenua of the area as this was the landing place of their ancestral Ngāi Tāhuhu waka (New Zealand Government 2011). Evidence of Māori settlement and cultivation is still readily visible in this area (New Zealand Government 2011; Department of Conservation 2020a). Motu Hāwere - Goat Island and the water surrounding it is also of importance to Ngāti Manuhiri as it was originally named Te Hāwere ā Maki after Maki, one of their revered Tipuna and the father of Manuhiri, after whom the iwi takes its name (New Zealand Government 2011). While this area endured a tumultuous period following the arrival of European settlers and subsequent colonisation, today mana whenua and the Crown agencies are reportedly working together more to protect both the ecological and cultural value of this landscape so that future generations can also share in its unique natural values (New Zealand Government 2011). As one of, if not the first totally protected marine reserve in the world, the CROP Marine Reserve has become an exemplar of the transformation that can occur when marine environments are protected and allowed to recover. This marine reserve highlights the important role these areas play in culture, education, tourism and their contribution to fisheries productivity outside the reserve.



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

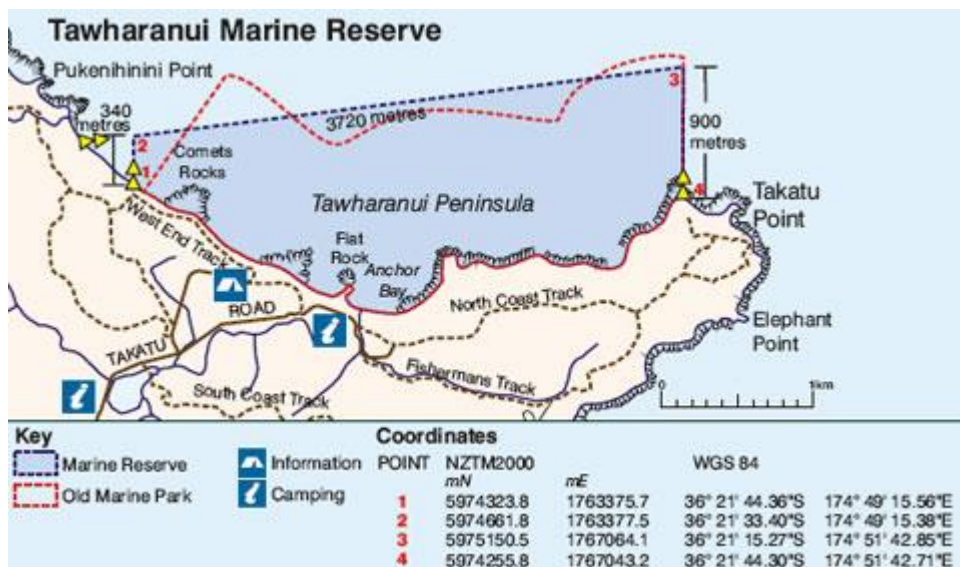
## 1.2. Tāwharanui Marine Reserve

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



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

Tāwharanui is also of great cultural significance to mana whenua (Auckland Regional Council 2020). The rich natural resources of the area supported Māori settlements from around 1200 onwards and the remains of pā, kāinga, middens, sacred sites and horticultural activity are still visible today (Auckland Regional Council 2020). This area is particularly important to mana whenua as this was the landing site of ancient waka including the Tainui canoe that transported the ancestors of Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngati Raupō from the Pacific to Aotearoa (Auckland Regional Council 2020). There have been many other tribal groups associated with the area over time (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Furthermore, Tāwharanui was the site of many battles both between iwi and also between iwi and Europeans (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Tāwharanui later hosted a succession of European owners from the mid 1800's who valued the area for its natural resources, through initial intensive logging and subsequently pastoral agriculture (Auckland Regional Council 2020). Today, the land around the marine reserve is a Regional Park that is managed as a pest-free sanctuary protected by a predator-proof fence with extensive restoration and predator control work undertaken by a dedicated group of volunteers (Auckland Regional Council 2020).



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



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

### 1.3. Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study was to investigate the potential biological benefits of extending the CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves. The objectives of this study report are three-fold:

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

## 2. Predator species

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



living below the canopy layer from the mobile visual fish predators that have difficulty find prey in his habitat.

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

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

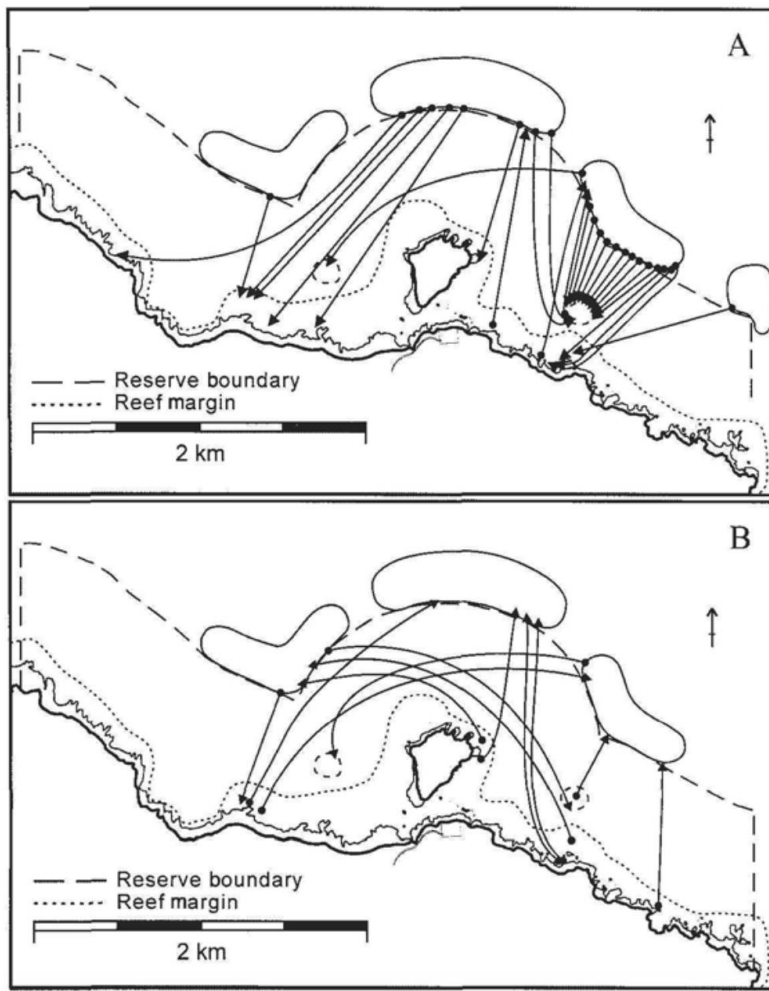
### **2.1. Red Rock Lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*)**

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

## **2.2. Lobster movement**

The movements of red rock lobsters that live in the CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves makes them vulnerable to capture. Red rock lobsters undertake seasonal movements from the rocky reefs lining the coastline out onto the sand flats in deeper water which can take them beyond the boundaries of their marine reserve (Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). The frequency and intensity of these movements varies seasonally (Kelly 2001). Resident lobsters in the CROP marine reserve move about 12 km per year in total but generally do not move more than 3 km away from the inshore reef from which they mostly reside (Kelly 2001; Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003). It is likely that offshore movement is in response to moulting, reproduction and feeding, however, water temperature and habitat type may also influence their offshore movements (Kelly 2001; Richard Taylor pers. comm). The patterns of movement are different between the sexes, with female lobsters moving away from their resident reef mostly in September and October at the later stages of egg-bearing and spawning whereas the male lobsters move mostly in January and July-September, which relates to their moulting and feeding (Kelly 2001). This highlights how inshore-offshore movements can impact the sex ratios of lobsters on rocky reefs within marine reserves (Richard Taylor pers. comm).

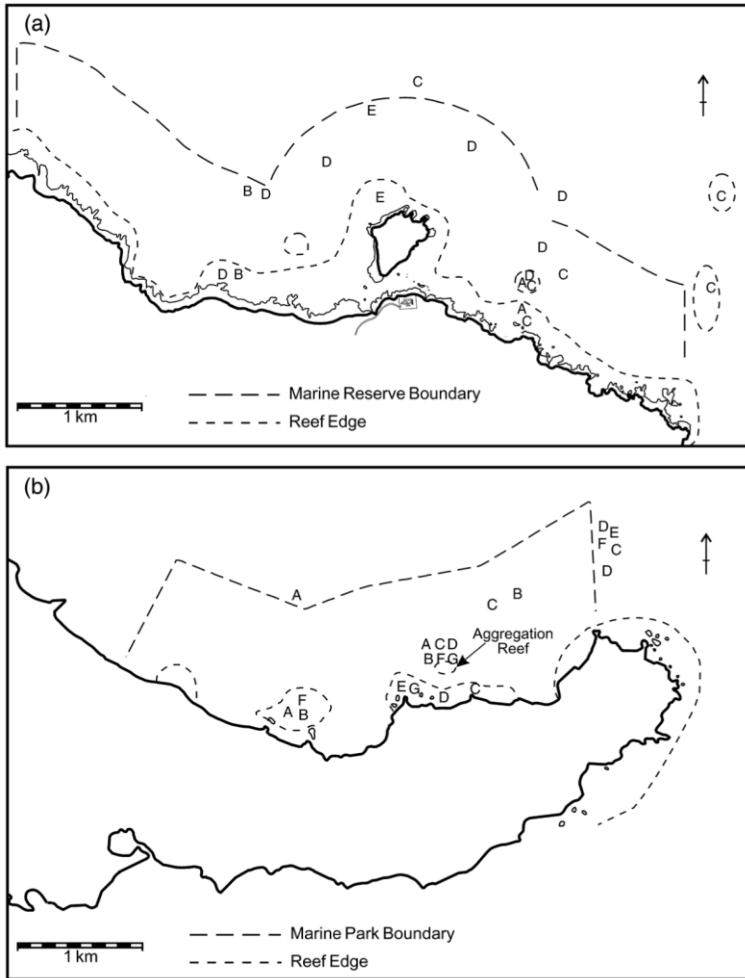
It is estimated that around 20% of tagged adult lobsters associated with the inshore rocky reefs within the CROP move back and forth beyond the boundaries of the reserve (Kelly and MacDiarmid 2003, Figures. 4-6). The extent of the site association of the lobsters is positively correlated with their size,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



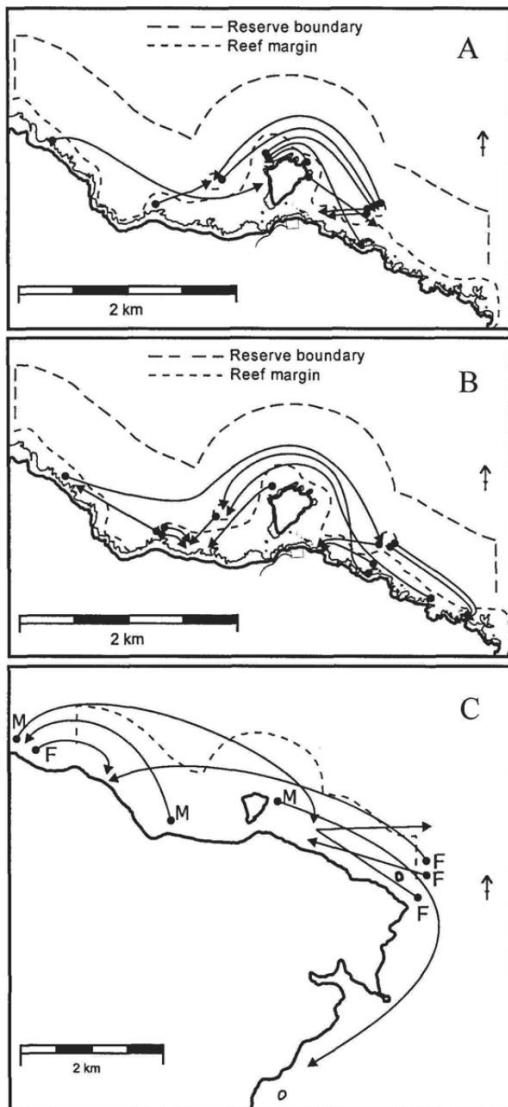
**Figure 4.** Maps showing the offshore movements of red rock lobsters that are normally resident in the CROP marine reserve which was measured over two time periods between 1983-1985 and 1994-1996. A total of 1166 lobsters were tagged during this time using antennal tags and either T-bar tags or western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



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



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



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

### 2.3. Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*)

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

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

#### **2.4. Snapper movement**

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

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

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

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

### **3. Habitats and biodiversity beyond marine reserve boundaries**

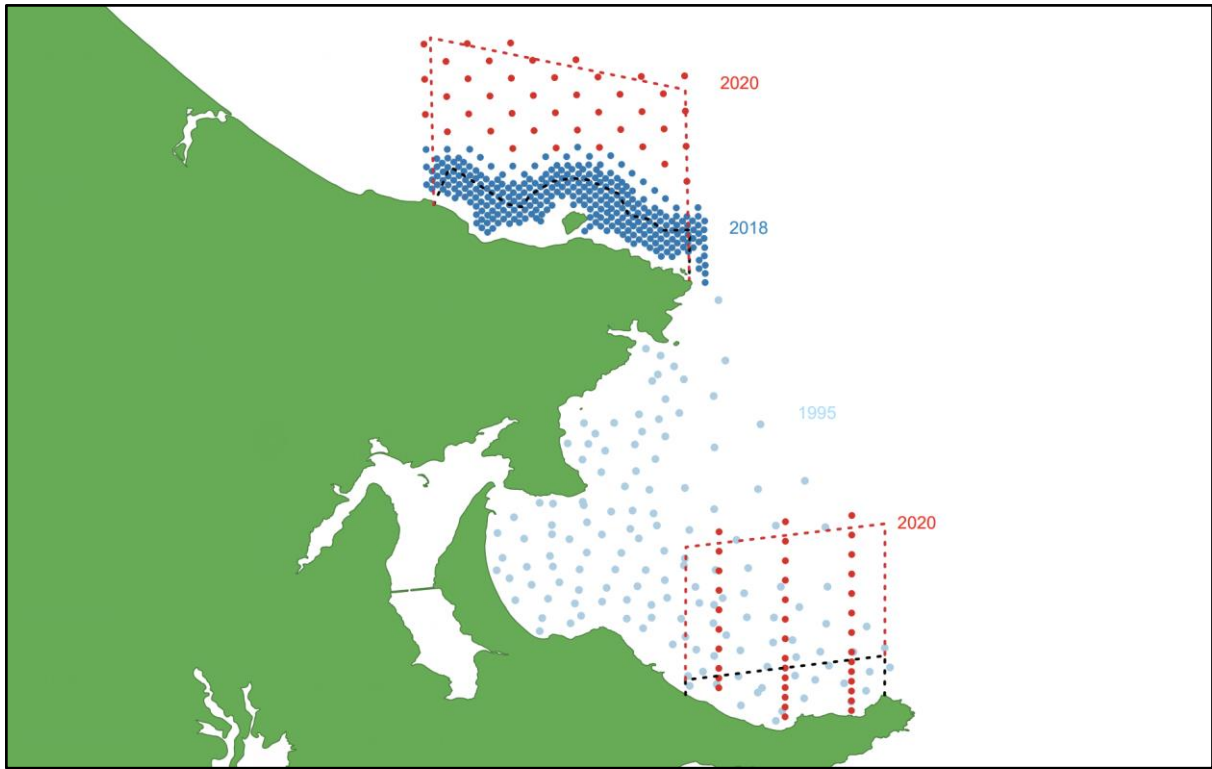
While the rocky reef and surrounding habitats within both CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves are fully protected within the boundaries of both reserves, the habitats beyond the boundaries, namely the sand and mud flats, are unique and of value to local species, as indicated by the movements of keystone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

#### **3.1. Deep soft-sediment habitats**

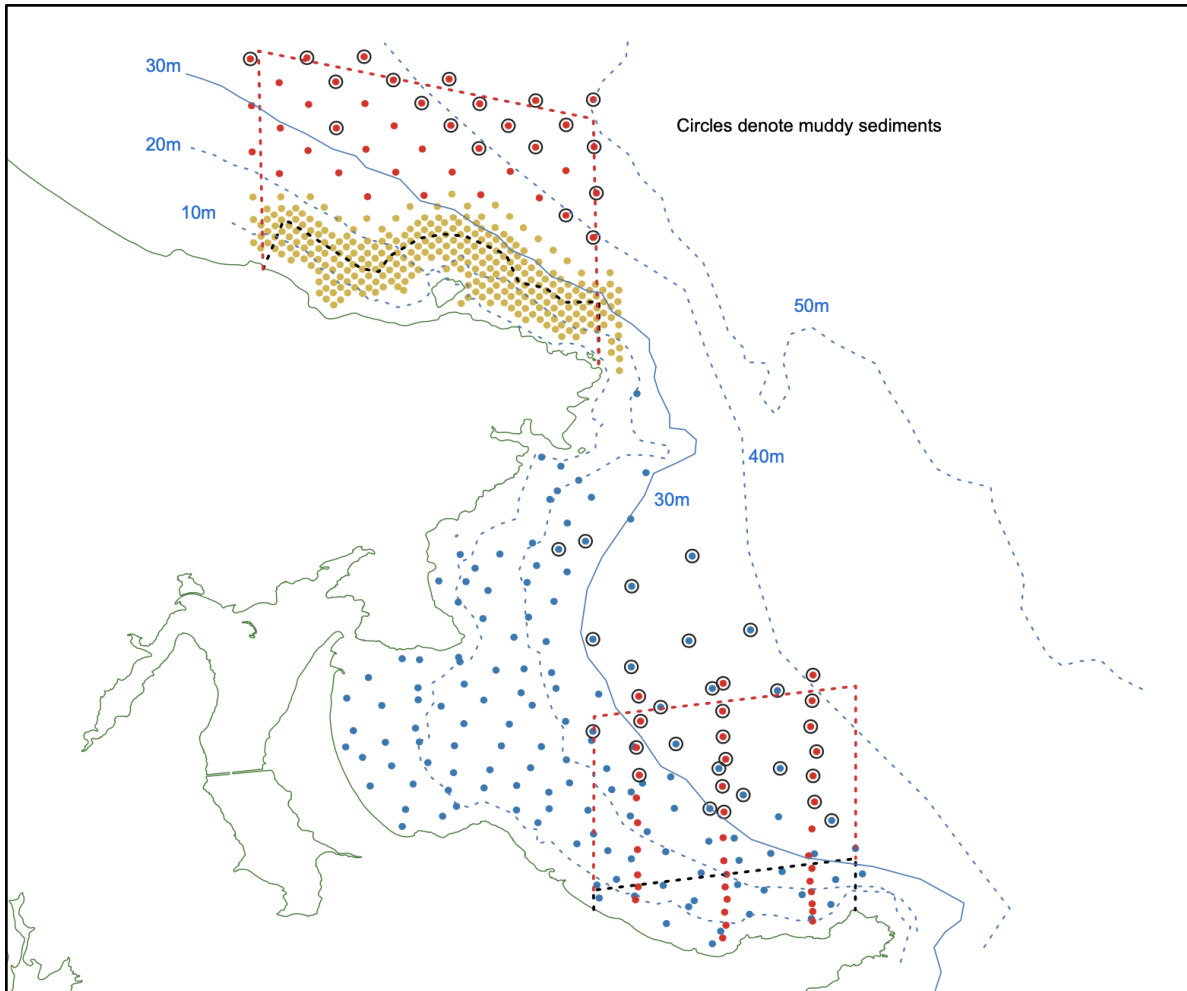
The sand flats of Omaha Bay (which encompasses Tāwharanui Marine Reserve, see light blue dots in Figure 8) are home to 236 benthic species from 13 different phyla within >30 m of depth (Taylor and



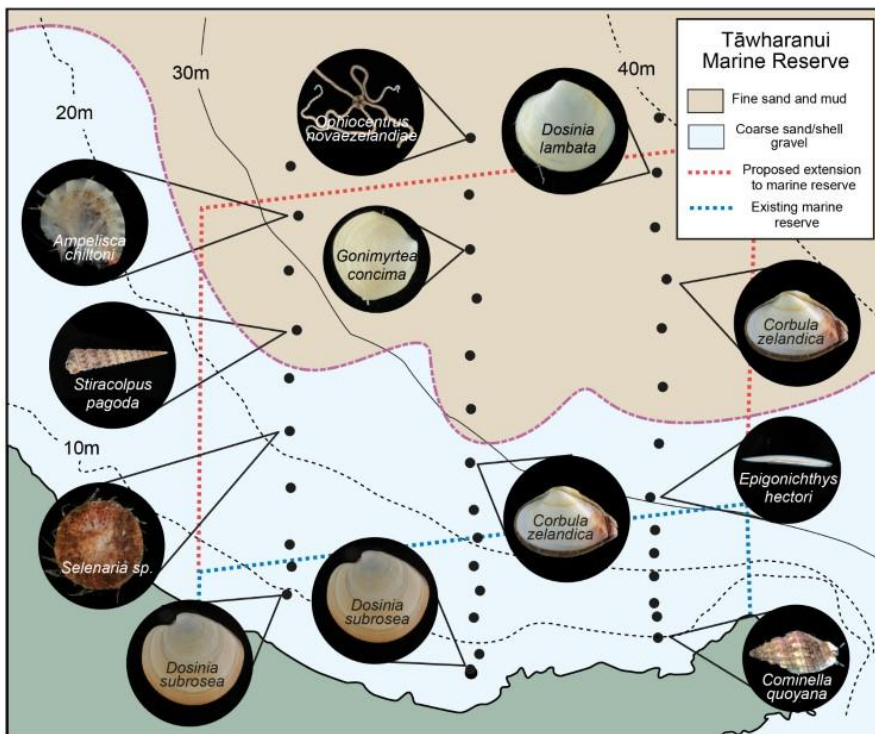
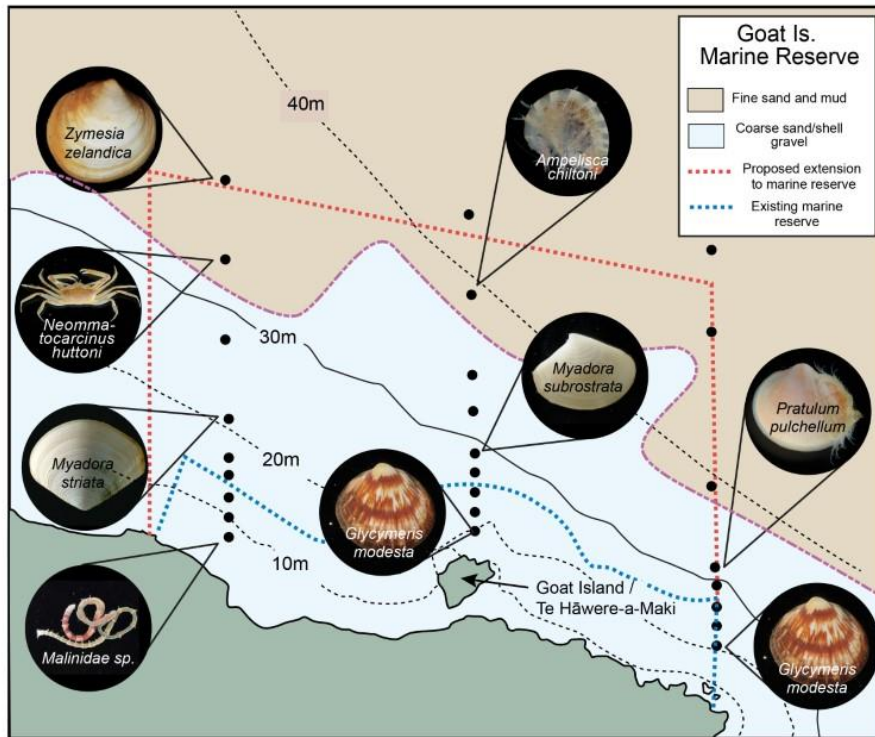
Morrison 2008). In soft sediment habitats, the species assemblages vary with the combination of depth and sediment type (Taylor and Morrison 2008). The composition of sediment type is partially controlled by water depth, with finer sediments (fine sand and mud) tending to accumulate in deeper water,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



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



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



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



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

#### 4. The Extension of Current Boundaries

##### 4.1. Proposed Extensions

A public spatial planning process Sea Change run over several years has proposed that the CROP Marine Reserve be extended to 3.8 km offshore (see Figure 12; Sea Change 2017). Currently, the CROP Marine Reserve boundary is located 800 m offshore. The change in the boundary is justified on the basis of accommodating the current cross boundary movements of keystone species, such as lobsters, in particular (Sea Change 2017). It is recognised that this will not only better protect keystone species but preserve vital habitats and the completeness of the wider ecosystem (Sea Change 2017). There is also evidence to suggest that there would be benefit in extending Tāwharanui Marine Reserve, although no formal recommendation has been made from the Sea Change process.



**Figure 12.** Map showing the 3km proposed offshore extension of Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve (Sea Change 2017).

#### 4.2. Management Approach

It has been demonstrated in national and international contexts alike that the management approach applied to a marine reserve has a profound effect on the conservation of keystone predators (Friedlander et al 2003; Babcock 2013). The Hauraki Gulf Forum creates ‘State of our Gulf’ reports which scientifically outline calls to action (Sea Change 2017; Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). With this information, the Sea Change process developed a marine spatial plan to provide a framework and recommendations for the appropriate management of the Hauraki Gulf and the marine protected areas within it. This plan was created in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council, iwi and extensive public engagement processes (Sea Change 2017). The emerging spatial plan recommends increasing the amount of marine protected areas in the Hauraki Gulf, including extending the existing CROP Marine Reserve (Figure 12). Taking an inclusive, stakeholder-led approach has been shown to generally increase compliance and ownership of the management and long term conservation process (Friedlander et al 2003). Furthermore, education such as that provided by the Discovery Centre at the University of Auckland’s Discovery Centre is an effective tool to inspire community engagement (Babcock et al 2013). In turn, community engagement drives environmental understanding and progress in achieving more comprehensive protection of the marine environment (Friedlander et al 2003). The Hauraki Gulf environment has suffered a tragedy of the commons with many different agencies working with different strategies attempting to address overfishing, pollution and other growing concerns in the wider Gulf but often making limited progress (Jacquet et al 2013; Sea Change 2017; Hauraki Gulf Forum 2020). It is well known in the scientific literature that effective conservation and management of protected areas relies on collaborative and inclusive planning that results in

timely but practical action (Sea Change 2017). Working alongside iwi is vitally important as they bring different perspectives and ancestral knowledge (Babcock 2013; Dodson 2014). The success of protecting the coastal environment in marine reserves has been demonstrated with the CROP and Tāwharanui Marine Reserves and the ecological recovery that has taken place since these reserves were established (Babcock 2013). The CROP Marine Reserve and the large number of visitors it attracts generates \$12.5 million per year to the local economy of Leigh (Auckland Council 2012). By extending CROP and nearby Tāwharanui marine reserves to include important deep soft-sediment habitats, these benefits could only be expected to amplify.

### **4.3. Reserve Design**

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

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

2014). Although, this may be attributed to greater habitat connectivity rather than reserve size per se. Green et al (2014) defines small reserves as approximately 0.5-1 km across and large reserves as 5-20 km across. However, the ideal size of a marine reserve varies depending on the biological context of the locality (Friedlander et al 2003; Munguia-Vega et al 2018). This reiterates the importance of research and understanding the biology and movements of species in marine reserve configuration.

The design of a marine reserve also depends on the context of the wider locality. Intense fishing pressure on keystone predators at the boundaries of marine reserves can markedly alter the abundance of key species and wider ecological functioning inside the reserve (Walters et al 2007; Goñi et al 2008; Babcock 2013). This is especially relevant to small reserves like CROP, Tāwharanui and many others around the world that are increasingly being found to be vulnerable in this way (Kramer and Chapman 1999; Green et al 2014). In these contexts, marine reserve boundaries should be designed in shapes that provide for the largest contiguous areas as possible, using shapes such as circles or squares rather than narrow rectangles (McLeod et al 2009). Due to their potential for direct impact on the effectiveness of marine reserves, the fisheries outside reserves, especially along the margins, should also be monitored closely to ensure they are not impacting the reserve (Walters et al 2007; Goñi et al 2008; Babcock 2013). Some argue that managing fisheries outside reserves is even more important than their design (Walters et al 2007). With this in mind, marine reserve management should be integrated with fisheries management of the wider locality (Walters et al 2007; Goñi et al 2008; Babcock 2013, Green et al 2014). Finally, marine reserves should be permanent to ensure their long term success (Munguia-Vega et al 2018). However, the future will demand sustained innovative and collaborative thinking to ensure that marine reserves can stand the test of time; even with the unprecedented effects of climate change and subsequent ecological impacts (Munguia-Vega et al 2018).

## **5. Concluding Statements**

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



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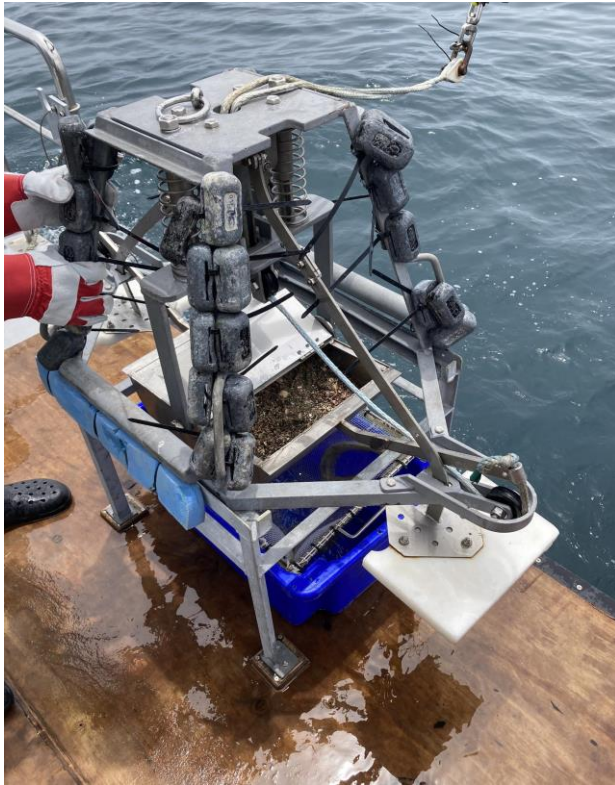
## Appendix: Images



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



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



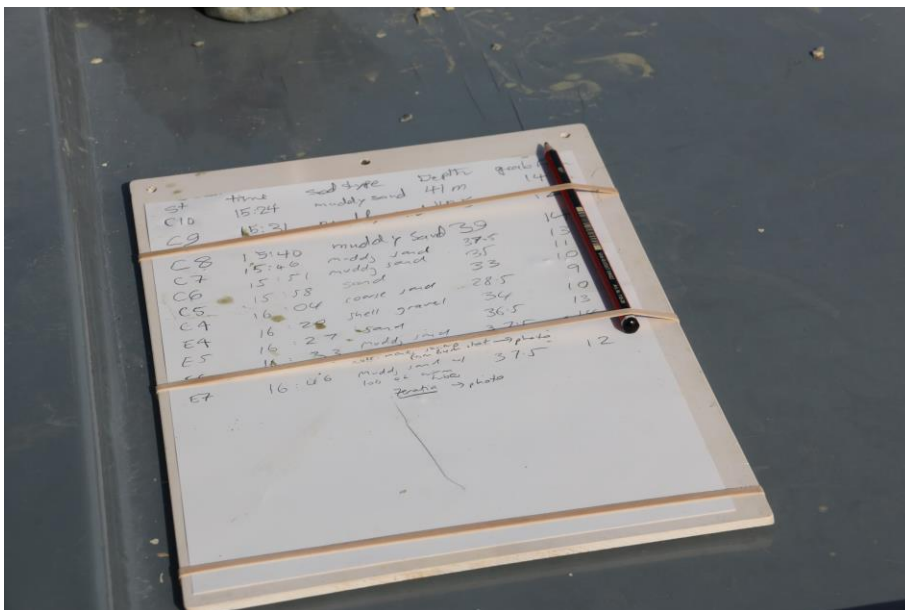
**Caption:** On return to the surface, the grab brought with it sediment and organisms from the seafloor.



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



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



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

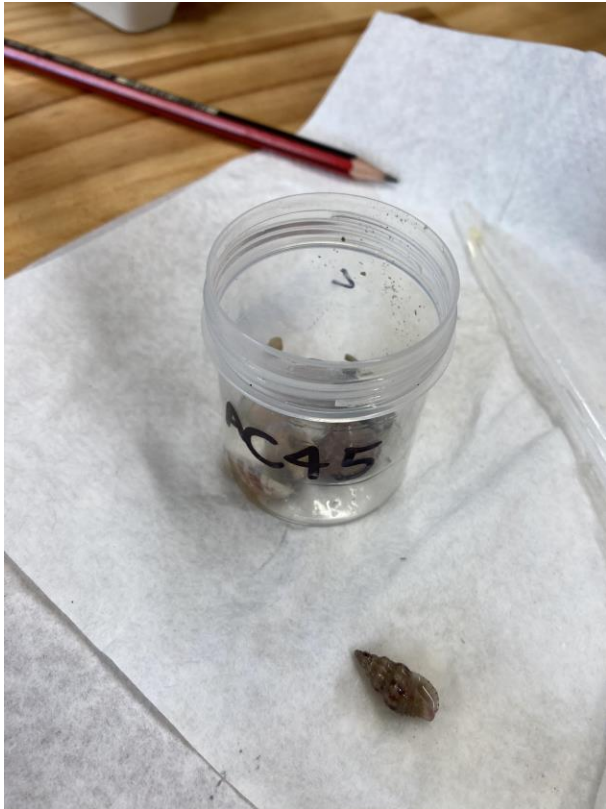




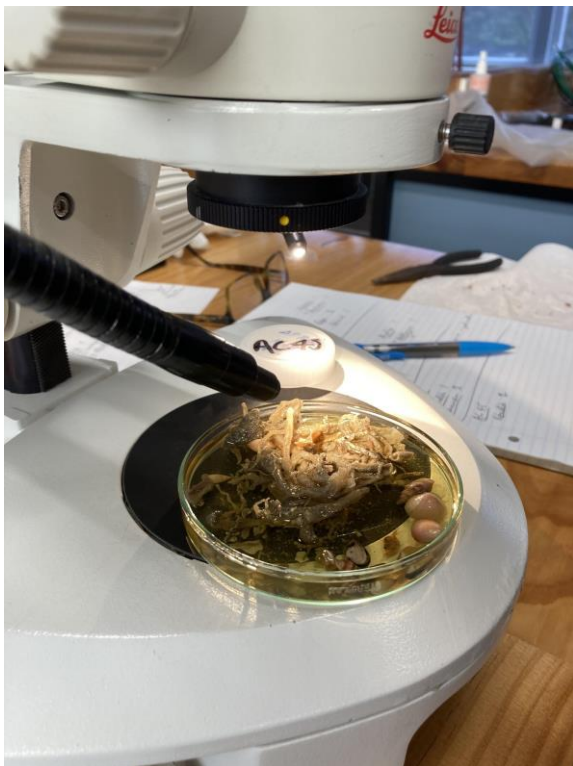
**Caption:** A small sediment sample was taken from each grab and the rest of each sample was put into a large snaplock bag for processing later.



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



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



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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 15 October 2022 4:42 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](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

Kia ora koutou,

I would like to support more protection on the new proposed marine protected zones in the Hauraki Gulf.

I have personally seen the difference between protected and unprotected areas and know from my mahi as well that we need more protected areas for biodiversity to flourish and increase mauri in the Hauraki Gulf.

We have been part of the problem now it is time that humans are part of the solution.

Thank you for your consideration

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 16 October 2022 9:27 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** feedback about the Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection proposals

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

Dear Sir

I fish many times a year in the Hauraki gulf and have some feedback about the proposed marine protection areas.

#1. The HPA number 7 b looks like this includes Channel Island. This HPA needs to be spelt out in more detail so we all know what is being intended. In my experience this area is not heavily fished since the weather is not that often safe to go there so I wonder if it needs protection.

#2. The northern coast of Waiheke is not going to have any HPAs created . This is an omission in my view. It would be quite easy administratively to seal off some of this coastline from any fishing. I am proposing this as combination with a change in the Otata Noises HPA proposal.

#3. The Otata HPA, area 14, looks like it includes Otata island, Motuhoropapa island, Takapu rock, David rocks, Zeno rock and perhaps Maria. You need to spell out the boundaries in more detail so we all know what's proposed. This area is indeed having less fish as the years go by especially around the two western islands. I am in favour of trying quite hard to protect the coastline around these two islands...but not the channel to the east of Otata...

The area for HPA 14 looks quite large .....it extends half way across to Tiri ...this is an area which can have gannet workups and I wonder if its needed to go so far towards Tiri for the HPA.

The channel between Otata and David rocks fishes well however as it gets fish coming in on the tide. It would be useful to separate off some of this channel and allow it to be fished as I believe its not currently showing signs of being overfished.

The boundary of the western edge of this HPA needs to specify what the plans are for the Haystack.

I propose sealing off a bit of Waiheke's northern coast as an HPA in exchange for a bit more freedom to fish the channel to east of Otata.

#4. Area number 5 is a good plan. This area needs protection.

#6. I am strongly in favour of stopping all commercial fishing between Bream Head and the Gulf Marine Park and in the Marine Park itself. Its time we got serious and made this step. It would be the single biggest positive change we could make.

I cringe every time I see a pilchard fishing boat out catching all the gannets food and destroying a great recreational fishing experience as well( as we chase the gannet workups when they feed on the pilchards if the pilchards have not been fished out!!). I have been out at Flat rock watching a trawler cruise by hoovering up all the fish. I have also been made aware of fishing boats coming in close at night in the Omaha area. This madness has to stop.

You are asking the tens of thousands of recreational fishermen to make a change. It's now time to ask the less than 100 commercial fishing folks to get out of the way so we can make real change.

#7. We are seeing more detached buoys from the Firth of Thames shellfish farms . Something bad is happening. These things are a nightmare to spot at times and are a hazard. Please sort this out.

That's all

Best wishes

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Thx for taking my views into account.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 October 2022 4:52 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** My submission in support of existing and new marine reserves

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

Dear Madam, Sir,

I write to you today because I want to support the establishing of new marine and seafloor protection areas in the Hauraki Gulf and to support the enlargement of such areas that already exist. Marine protection works, we have proof for this in the Goat Island and Poor Knights reserves. The reasons for my support are to keep the oceans as healthy as possible for us and for coming generations. Urgent action is required with dwindling numbers of marine creatures in the Hauraki Gulf and an ecological collapse threatening. Commercial and recreational fishing must be strictly limited to much smaller numbers in order to give the marine animals in the Gulf a chance to survive.

Thank you,

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 October 2022 5:01 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](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

The Hauraki Gulf is in a very sorry state, as has been recorded by various reviews. Revitalisation of this important area must be a priority.

Living on an island in the Hauraki Gulf means that we are well are of its stresses made by human beings and e fishing industry, including recreational fishermen.

We want a healthy and vibrant Hauraki Gulf with increased reserves. The proposed once just north of Waiheke is being considered by DOC. It should be given the go ahead with more to be created.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 October 2022 5:54 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** The Noises, Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** Noises submission.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

Attached is our submission in support of special legislation for marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

We have included brief information on our connection to the Noises and the broader Hauraki Gulf.

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



Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui ā Toi.

Kia ora

We support the package 'Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals' to establish new marine and seafloor protection areas to restore the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park /

From our home on **s 9 (2)(a)**, we regularly see masses of recreational and commercial boats fishing in these areas. In the height of summer we have counted over 200 small boats in the vicinity of the Noises, the vast majority of them fishing. At the same time, we are observing in the Gulf greater discolouration of the sea from coastal erosion and the virtual disappearance of shoals of small in-shore fish.

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 such as at Goat Island. 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.

We believe that the Government must act urgently 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 immediately to protect these areas for the benefit of future generations both of humans and of fish and other marine species.

Nga mihi

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) ) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 October 2022 12:23 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Protection

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

I am writing to support the plan to protect the Gulf.

In particular we need to stop damage to the sea bed and the destruction of the eco system there caused by dredging and using heavy weights on nets, and overfishing.

I am distressed by the way commercial interests have destroyed and desecrated our environment.

Stolen from the people of NZ by a few for their own personal gain.

Time to stop.

Many Thanks

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

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) , 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 October 2022 12:42 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission in respect to 'Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals'

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

I have lived in Auckland since 2002. I have been an active recreational fisherman in the Hauraki Gulf for 20 years. 7 years ago we purchased a s 9 (2)(a) and I was s 9 (2)(a) for three years. I have been a member of the Outboard Boating Club for the last 5 years.

I believe that I have a good understanding of the broad range of opinions and strong feelings of the recreational fishing community in regard to the establishment of marine protection areas.

Over the last 20 years I have witnessed the decreasing marine diversity and fish stocks in the Hauraki Gulf. Many fishers yearn to return to "the good old days" where fish were plentiful and the right to fish was taken for granted. The fact that we have been fishing unsustainably for generations is not a reason to continue.

I have seen first hand the amazing ecosystems that exist in countries that are serious about conserving their natural environment. Costa Rica would be a model that comes to mind when balancing sport fishing and conservation.

Now is the time to radically change the way we see our relationship with the Hauraki Gulf. We need to shift from seeing the Gulf as a food basket to understanding our role as guardians of this beautiful natural environment.

My family and myself fully support this proposal and would like to see it implemented as stated in the information document. There is a risk that lobbying from recreational fishers will see some of the proposed areas reduced but this should be considered in the light of decades of overfishing and poor management.

I am happy to present my feedback in person.

s 9 (2)(a)

Please stop shooting Thar.

s 9 (2)(a)

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) - s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:09 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Feedback on Revitalising The Gulf Proposals

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

To whom it may concern

While I agree with the need to increase marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf, I object to the re-classification of many of our popular fishing grounds as High Protection areas, as proposed in the Revitalising The Gulf document.

In particular, my family and I have been fishing in the proposed areas #5 (Rangitoto and Motutapu) and #2 (Slipper Island/Whakahau) for more than 50 years.

These are my regular "go-to" areas for fishing, and have been so for many years, so to lose access to both areas at once would be a severe blow to our traditional fishing rights.

It would be more acceptable to classify these areas as Seafloor Protection areas, whereby we could continue to enjoy recreational fishing, provided that activities which harm the seafloor are avoided.

I would also suggest that commercial fishing should be prohibited in these areas, as that is likely to have more impact on the seafloor and fish populations.

It would make more sense to create High Protection areas in more remote locations which the average boatie is less likely to target. Logically, these areas would still provide the same benefits to marine life populations as those located closer to shore.

In the current situation, the cost of fuel is prohibitive, so it is important to have access to fishing grounds that are within easy reach of the launching ramps.

If the public is forced to travel further afield to find productive fishing grounds, this will lead to unnecessary waste of resources and increased pollution.

Best regards

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

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:40 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Comments on Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I am a recreational fisherman and so my comments are from that view point.  
I have concerns over the areas 8a, 10a, 11a and comment as follows:

### 8a Mokohinau Islands

This is a fishing destination far from port but is seen by fisherman for a mecca for chasing the “big one” and requires good planning and good weather for access. Whilst the latest recreational vessels are getting bigger and faster and so this is coming under greater pressure, there is still a need to allow for the adventure seekers somewhere to go in the gulf and this is it. I would oppose this region being selected as part of the HPA. The seafloor protection in this area is fine and makes sense.

### 10a Kawau Island

This is a fishing destination close to port with a camp grounds enclosed within its vicinity - Martin’s bay, scandrett’s freedom campers and Motuora. It is a common site for kayaks to launch from. I would suggest an area of far less impact on users would be to move this area slightly south down the peninsular and commence the area from the Martin’s bay point (the south peninsular of the bay and down to the entrance to Warkwarth bay. As this section of land not heavily populated, it could crease a similar protection with less impact on users.

### 11a Tiritiri

I am assuming this area covers shearer’s rock. If so, this a major fishing haunt for boaties from gulf harbour and Orewa and would be devastating to lose this from their area.

### General Comment

I am concerned that our only forms of protection for our Gulf come down to 2 strategies – closure of the area and limit on take through quota and catch limits. I think we could better manage our stocks by also having the following:

#### *Rotational area closures*

- Rotational closure of areas to rejuvenate an area and then allow it to be fished whilst creating a new area – Whilst I appreciate that it does take years to regenerate fully, this will be much more widely accepted by the community as if they know that an area would be closed for say 3-5 years then they would be waiting in anticipation for this to reopen in a rejuvenated state

#### *Reseeding stocks.*

- Is there any thought given to stocking closed areas with fish stocks like they do for paua in Kaikoura and with Salmon in Canada? If we could seed scallop beds and paua, breed yellowtail mackerel, crayfish, kahawai, snapper and kingfish to regenerate stock this could add a significant increase in current biomass growth. My reasons for theses are that they are as follows:
  - Yellowtail mackerel is a bait fish for a large number of fish
  - Kahawai, snapper and kingfish are the main fished stocks within the gulf
  - Scallops and Crayfish are the main shellfish in the Gulf

- Paua, whilst have largely been fished out of the gulf, there is already a well established spat replacement program in force in Kaikoura and could be easily replicated for the gulf.

I would be willing to pay a fishing licence fee if my money went to the above.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)



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

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## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 7:57 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** Submission to Proposed Protection Zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** TEPS Submission to DOc on HGMP marine protection FINAL.pdf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Please find attached a submission on behalf of Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society (TEPS) members, on the Proposed Protection Zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf.

*Ngā mihi / Kind regards*

s 9 (2)(a)

Chairperson

Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society (TEPS)

s 9 (2)(a)



# Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society (TEPS)

By email: s 9 (2)(a)



## TEPS Submission to the Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

### Details:

Chairperson: s 9 (2)(a)

Email: s 9 (2)(a)

Website: [www.teps.org.nz](http://www.teps.org.nz)

Facebook Page: [Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society | Facebook](#)

Physical Address: s 9 (2)(a)

Phone: s 9 (2)(a)

### Background:

The Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society (TEPS) is an incorporated society with charitable status. It has a general membership and is governed by an executive committee of volunteers, who are elected at the Annual General meeting. The TEPS Executive have a mandate to advocate on behalf of members on matters impacting the Estuary, including the marine environment.

TEPS purpose is to work to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of the Tamaki Estuary. We work towards this through advocacy, action, research, reporting, monitoring, education and raising awareness about the Tāmaki Estuary and its catchment's management. Water quality, biodiversity and erosion are key focuses.

Our goal is to see the Tāmaki Estuary, its river and tributaries restored, maintained, and enhanced, to be a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem that can be enjoyed by all.

The Tāmaki Estuary shoreline and catchment involves five Local Boards, Ōrakei, Maungakiekie / Tāmaki, Mangere, Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara / Papatoetoe, Howick, which have a combined population of over half a million residents [All local boards \(aucklandcouncil.govt.nz\)](#).

TEPS works in collaboration with many local organisations including the Tamaki Estuary Environmental Forum, Auckland Rowing Club, Otara Lake and Waterways Trust, Trees for Survival, Eastern Bays Songbird Project, Pest Free Pakuranga, Pest Free Howick, Conservation Volunteers NZ, and the Wai-O-Taiki Bay Residents Association, and others.



## Submission

1. The Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society (TEPS) **supports the Department of Conservation's Marine protection proposals** for the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi (the Gulf) and encourages the Minister and Department of Conservation to consider extending these areas.
2. TEPS **supports banning all bottom impact fishing activities** in the Hauraki Gulf.
3. TEPS **urges the extension of Marine Reserves using the existing act wherever possible** until Aotearoa New Zealand has updated legislation.

### TEPS draws Ministers' attention to:

4. The **close relationship and interdependence between the Hauraki Gulf and highly populated communities** living around the Tāmaki Estuary and its river, urban streams, and waterways. Communities living around the Tāmaki Estuary and its river, view these as a major access way to the Gulf. Local communities love the Gulf, access it through the Estuary and wish to see its fish and birdlife thrive.
5. There is widespread appreciation of the dire state of Hauraki Gulf fish stocks and its reducing biodiversity. Horizon Research poll in 2021 showed 84% of respondents want to ban all bottom impact fishing the Gulf <sup>1</sup>.
6. The Estuary and Gulf provide a vital source of recreational enjoyment. Species and habitat collapse in the Hauraki Gulf negatively ripples through communities and adversely impacts those who wish to live, work, and play around our urban waterways.

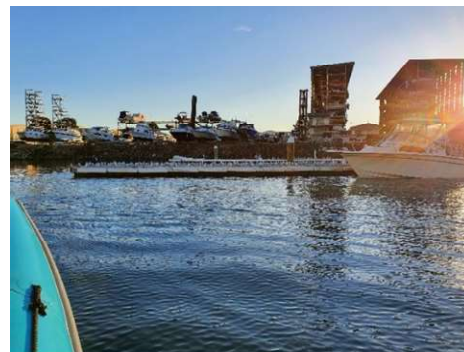
---

<sup>1</sup> <https://gulffournal.org.nz/2021/11/results-of-hauraki-gulf-poll/>



*Residents enjoy the Tāmaki Estuary and Hauraki Gulf for recreational activities that are enhanced by the presence of diverse ecosystems and many fish species. Photo: February 2022*

7. **Planned increases in suburban density will negatively impact the marine environment.** The Tāmaki Estuary’s suburban population and facilities for recreational boating and fishing have rapidly increased in number and size over recent years. In just three of the many suburbs on the Estuary Coastline, 2,500 homes are being replaced with 10,500 new homes <https://tamakiregeneration.co.nz/regen/regeneration-programme/> .
8. There has been a significant increase in the numbers of recreational boats entering the Hauraki Gulf from the Tāmaki Estuary, with the development of multi-storey boat storage facilities and pontoons.
9. Recreational catch of snapper exceeds that of commercial<sup>2</sup>. Soon, tens of thousands more people will access the Hauraki Gulf from the Tāmaki increasing pressure on fish populations. The network of Marine Protected Areas will provide a safe area for large animals which make a disproportionate contribution to productivity. It takes thirty-six 30cm snapper to make the same number of eggs as one 70cm snapper<sup>3</sup>. Auckland needs these large preserves.



*Multi-storey boat storage facilities, and floating pontoons that provide marina facilities have recently been built on the shores of the river. Photo: February 2022*

<sup>2</sup> <https://gulffournal.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/State-of-our-Gulf-2020.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1046/j.1365-2664.2003.00775.x>

10. There is also an increasing diversity of views on wildlife management in New Zealand. MPAs provide a wealth of experiences that these are becoming increasingly popular and have quantifiable economic benefits.
11. Increased **marine protection measures for the Hauraki Gulf is likely to have a hugely positive impact** for TEPS members and their economic interests. For example, in 2007 the marine reserve at Leigh generated \$18.6 million for the local economy<sup>4</sup>.
12. **Urban waterways in the area have been heavily polluted and no longer provide pristine nursery environments for supporting Hauraki Gulf biodiversity.** The Tāmaki Estuary acts as a nursery for keystone species like snapper and rig. This function has been hampered by historic and ongoing local pollution by sediment, plastic, and chemicals such and zinc, copper and nitrates.



*Overflowing stormwater mixed with sewage spill into urban waterways result in raised nitrate levels and other contaminants reducing habitat quality in the Estuary.  
Photo: 2022*

13. Auckland Council are working hard to reduce Tamaki's pollution issues with the National policy statement for freshwater management coming into effect. However, these measures will take years to reverse the degraded state of the Estuary.

14. **Local shorebird extinction and fish species collapse is happening in our time**  
Historic photos show how plentiful fish were within the Estuary.

*Sights such as this photo taken within the Estuary, showed how fishing was experienced by local Tamaki communities in years past.*

*Photo Acknowledgement: **s 9 (2)(a)**.*



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.howtokit.org.nz/images/emr/pdfs-files/Consultation Resources/Hunt 2008 Leigh marine reserve Economic Analysis.pdf>

15. Kōura / Crayfish are functionally extinct in the Hauraki Gulf contributing to kina barrens. **Marine Protection Areas should be designed to protect the home ranges of Kōura / Crayfish.**
  
16. Many ocean species use sound to catch food, for reproduction communication, and navigation. There should be **Marine Reserves that provide protection from under water noise pollution.**
  
17. Overfishing of small schooling fish is reducing food for seabirds and Bryde's whales in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. **Please extend the protection**, from benthic into the pelagic ecosystem, **by banning purse seining and gill-net fishing** in the Special Protection Areas.
  
18. Marine Protected Areas protect filter feeding animals. Their biological processes can transform and reduce pollution, such as sediment. This enables ecosystems with lessened fishing pressure to become more resilient to pollution impacts.
  
19. The Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society (TEPS) strongly **supports the Department of Conservation's Marine protection proposals** for the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi (the Gulf) and **urges the Minister and Department of Conservation to consider extending these areas.**

ENDS

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 1:29 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Revitalising the Gulf proposals

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To the Department of Conservation,

I am shocked at the proposal to reduce environmental protection on racial grounds. We all have equal rights and responsibilities under the Treaty and it is in everyone's interest to maintain our country.

I welcome no-take areas but oppose any woke ideas to reduce their effectiveness.

Regards,

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 1:53 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf proposals

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the 'Revitalising the Gulf' proposals.

I strongly disagree to legislation and rules based on race. Giving Iwi separate rights to any other New Zealander creates divided communities. People cannot help what they are born to. They can make choices about how they live. To create different rules for people based on what they are born to creates resentments and frustrations. We spent the whole of last century enshrining equal rights for every individual in our legislation!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Regards,

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 2:23 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf - FEEDBACK

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To DOC,

Yes, we need to protect marine life.

I absolutely disagree with the proposal for new High Protection areas. These should all be NO TAKE areas.

- 1). Fish deserve the right to live freely in our waters and to live the life they want to live without being hunted and killed. NO TAKE rights are the highest level of protection for them and their environment.
- 2). Fishing rights for NZers should be equal and equitable (customary rights only for iwi is not fair to other NZers as per UN Human Rights provisions. Plus, The Treaty of Waitangi states that everyone in New Zealand has 'ngā tikanga katoa rite tahi' - equal rights).

I believe that no-take marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act are the best way to restore the Gulf and ALL marine protection should be NO TAKE.

I agree with the proposal for new 'Seafloor Protection Areas'.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 2:31 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Sea change feedback

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi,  
I'm responding as an active Boatie and fisherman on the hauraki gulf, currently living in s 9 (2)(a) overlooking the waitemata harbour and hauraki Gulf.

I'm responding on my own and these are just my views.

I live at s 9 (2)(a)  
And can be phoned on s 9 (2)(a)

I've read your report and was impressed at the comprehensive nature of the approach.

I feel there should be more reserves / no take zones, I'd like to see the gulf returned to a more healthy ecosystem.

Regards s 9 (2)(a)

--

Peter 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:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 2:35 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Feedback on the Revitalising the Gulf proposal

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To the Department of Conservation,

### **Regarding feedback on the Revitalising the Gulf proposal.**

I support marine protected areas that protect the Hauraki Gulf.

I am in favour of the new Seafloor Protection proposal however I don't believe the proposed High Protection areas are appropriate to achieve the goals of reducing environmental decline due to human activities because of their inclusion of customary take rights.

These rights go against the collective responsibility that all New Zealanders have to protect our shared environment. Granting customary rights also goes against our constitutional and UN Human Rights for equality.

Instead of High Protection areas I believe these areas would be better at achieving the marine protection outcomes desired if they were designated as Marine Reserves that are no-take areas.

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:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 2:57 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Attachments:** submission.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Sirs,

Please find a submission re the Revitalising the Gulf proposals.

s 9 (2)(a)

General concerns:

I am deeply concerned at the opaqueness of the Information document, which, while mainly in English, lapses into Maori words for no apparent reason. If this document is meant to be read and understood by New Zealanders, it needs to be in a language all New Zealanders can understand. That is English. Words like matauranga, mana whenua, rangatiratanga, mauri, taonga, kaitiaki are gratuitously dropped in. I have no idea what these mean, and they are not in my dictionary, but they appear to be an attempt to obfuscate and deceive, because a document intended for general understanding would be written in plain English (and translated into Maori for those very very few unable to understand English).

Likewise the descent into acronyms CPMP, HPA, etc, makes the document difficult to understand.

More specific concerns:

(1) "Successful PCR applicants can continue to exercise their PCRs within the proposed HPAs and SPAs, irrespective of the sites' biodiversity objectives or CPMPs"

So although there are marine plans and biodiversity objectives, some people (apparently racially selected, and likely to be only Maoris) can ignore these? What is the point of a biodiversity objective or a marine plan if it is imposed on some people but not others? The objective becomes meaningless as it cannot and will not be met. To meet objectives, then everyone must be required to meet that objective and not engage in activities that counter the objective.

(2) "Customary practices will be managed to achieve the biodiversity objectives agreed with mana whenua for each site." (A) This contradicts the statement above that customary practices can ignore the biodiversity objectives. (B) Why are only Maoris deciding the biodiversity objectives? They are only 10% of the population, and race has no relevance when it comes to environmental protection. The objectives should be decided by all NZers, or by a representational group of them that includes Maoris, whites, yellows, blacks, and non-Maori browns. The objectives are intended to safeguard the environment for the future, and \*ALL\* NZers have a stake in that. Race is completely irrelevant.

I am also deeply troubled by the apartheid system being proposed for HPAs. While recreational fishing is to be prohibited, "man whenua" (I presume this means Maoris? Why not say so) will be allowed to fish. So access to fishing, the birthright of all New Zealanders (and their guests), is to be decided on racial grounds? Brown people can fish, white, yellow, black and red people can't? How can this possibly be justified? It is similar to the blacks only beaches of the south African apartheid days, or the "no dogs or Chinese" signs of old Shanghai. Proof of a man's parentage should not be a condition of his being allowed to catch fish to feed his family. We all get hungry, we all need to eat. Not just Maoris.

We need to be building a society that integrates and unites all NZers. A "marine protection proposal" that specifically excludes non-Maori from decision-making, and from certain customary activities, including those involving basic human needs like eating and recreation, will only foster resentment and division, and ultimately means that those excluded will not value, and may actively undermine, attempts to protect the environment. The idea that police will have to demand and check the full

ancestry of fishermen, and fine those that cannot prove an acceptable bloodline is so Orwellian it defies understanding and generates contempt for the law.

Please scrap this proposed policy and replace it with one that focuses on the environment, and treats all NZers equally. Racist policies and apartheid have no place in 21<sup>st</sup> century NZ.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 3:09 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Co-governance is the future

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To the Department of Conservation,

I am writing to support the notion of granting customary rights to iwi in the Hauraki Gulf. Furthermore, I support co-governance, particularly in marine environments which have been decimated under current governance models.

I view the position of the Gulf Users organisation as racist, archaic and not at all useful for the future of the Hauraki Gulf, its flora and fauna, or the people of Tamaki Makaurau.

Ngā mihi,

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 3:43 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Customary Fishing in the Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I am writing to provide feedback on the Revitalising the Gulf proposals and my support of the notion of customary fishing, albeit with a different take.

For the future generations and our mokopuna I believe we have the duty to see more, not less protection of our valuable taoka moana, including nga ika and the seabed and health of all of the waters.

The High Protection areas as proposed do not achieve this, in fact it reduces the current level of protection.

A far better approach is to keep the marine protected areas, with only an exception for equal (non-racial) customary rights.

Customary rights to fish should exist on an equal basis as promised in Te Tiriti - such that, with equal access, equal outcomes and equality, anyone in New Zealand should be allowed, regardless of their heritage and genetics. Customary Fishing would require, and only be allowed in a customary fashion - ie anyone, regardless of their race, may take as much as they need to feed their whanau but only if their fishing method is 100% customary and predating 1840.

That is, only allowed should that person be fishing using a traditional wooden or whalebone hook and string made from flax. No nets or modern fishing equipment should be allowed, thus naturally protecting our fish stock through the difficulty of the catch.

This difficulty and lower volume also self-polices the ability to illegally sell fish caught in the Hauraki.

It also has some potential for tourism, sharing our customary fishing methods.

Of course, in observation of Te Tiriti it needs to apply to all, regardless of their DNA - Pacifica, Asian, European, Maori and the many mixes thereof: ngā tikanga katoa rite tahi - equal rights for all as citizens of Aotearoa.

Otherwise maintaining in law the no-take marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act are the best way to restore the Gulf.

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 3:54 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf Forum proposals

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my opinions on the new revised proposals for the Hauraki Gulf.

I don't believe the new designation of 'High Protection Areas' for the areas of most concern will adequately protect them, and they should continue to be classified as 'No Take 'areas as has been done in the past

Also, allowing Maori only, to keep fishing as they please is quite frankly, clearly racist and this provision should be removed from any conservation documents. The policing of this new policy would be simply impossible, as how would your inspectors be able to judge who is a Maori and who isn't ?.. Will they have to carry medical information certifying that they have a certain percentage of Maori bloodlines??

The Hauraki Gulf is an area available for use by all New Zealanders and to have special rules for one sector of our population is simply unacceptable to us all ..Following on from mistakes of the past by introducing new discriminatory rules now is no way forward at all, and all fishing rules must apply to all ethnicities equally

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:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 7:25 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Haruaki gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

What worries me is why govt departments are going for separatism only Marois can fish in places calling it customary rights what I have seen coming ashore is nothing but rape of the sea bed. I want this country to be one people it is very fast becoming a country of apartheid. please do not destroy this beautiful country.

Faithfully s 9 (2)(a)



## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 9:08 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve Extension Submission

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

**Categories:** Recorded

- your name: s 9 (2)(a)
- the name of your organisation, A property owner, Rate payer and user of the s 9 (2)(a).
- your contact details. s 9 (2)(a)
- Email: s 9 (2)(a)
- Phone: s 9 (2)(a)
- Submission:
- 

- I do not agree that this marine park extension should proceed. With the original creation of the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve, it removed a significant area of some of the best fishing and diving in the area. This has caused increased pressure on the surrounding areas. Hahei is very fortunate because Hahei has Mahurangi Island. This island provided protection to the beach AND it provides safe boating for the many small boats that enjoy the area. To simplify this if there is a Northerly wind, small boats use the southern side and in a southeasterly the northern side. With the proposed extension the Northwestern side will be excluded creating a very unsafe situation.
- This extension will also exclude many divers from some of the more shallow waters in the area, forcing divers to dive deeper areas. Again increasing risk to divers. It will also increase the pressure on the remaining areas. This pressure includes recreational and commercial fishers. Currently there is high pressure on the remaining area after those with commercial interests fish the area all year and then the recreational fishers are left to clean up the shallow areas. Reducing the remaining area will create a counter-productive marine environment.
- Will dogs still be able to use the beach area within the proposed reserve? This beach is used by hundreds, if not thousands of property owners, family, friends and visitors to exercise their pets each day. These pets will not be able to be stopped from swimming in the sea...in the total Hahei beach area. How would this be controlled??? This reserve would not be supported by any person wanting the beach as a pet exercise area.
- A better option is to identify another area on the coromandel and set it aside as a marine reserve.
- 

- Regards
- s 9 (2)(a)

Controlled and edited by this iPad which knows better than its owner.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <action@campaignnow.co>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 9:03 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Gulf revitalization

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

**Categories:** Recorded

The Revitalising the Gulf proposal is one of the most divisive, racist proposal I have seen in a very long time.

Shame on you all.

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 9:07 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** submission on DOCs proposals for marine "reserves".

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I previously sent a submission on this.

Now I have realized that “ 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.”

I am horrified. Allowing fishing to continue in what are supposed to be reserves, by maori, is totally unacceptable. It would make a mockery of the whole concept of marine reserves.

I am going to make sure that this is known by National and Act, so they can use it as a another nail in the coffin of this government, as well as a nail in the coffin of this outrageous proposal.

Also, I am angry at DOCs obvious attempt to bring this in “”under the radar – by carefully saying nothing about what the HPAs etc are.

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, 20 October 2022 10:01 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalise the Hauraki Gulf Submission

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To Department of Conservation,

I am writing to provide feedback on the Revitalising the Gulf proposals.

I have been enjoying the Gulf for over fifty years and strongly support proposals to maintain, and improve its health for future generations of all New Zealanders. Thank you for the intent of this initiative and for recognising some of the destructive fishing practices that have caused damage to the ecosystem and fish stocks.

Consideration should be given to banned recreational scallop dredging for all, or at least selected key areas as I believe that this is destructive and non-selective in the effects on the seabed.

I welcome more marine protected areas to enhance the health of the Hauraki Gulf within reasonable limits, however this needs to recognise that not all boaties have big boats so easy access to reasonable fishing areas has to be maintained. No-take marine reserves, could be extended, provided that as above, these are not extensive, not so close to shore, that reasonable access to fishing is maintained for smaller boats - i.e. don't lock up vast swathes of the Gulf, just smaller patches. The potential HPI around the Noises, David Rocks, Maria, Aahaa's etc is vast and important to recreational fishers. Whilst small parts of this could be protected, I don't agree with the entire area being off-limits. Similarly, the area west of Motutapu is too large. The area up to and around the Happy Jacks? Is there evidence of significant overfishing requiring a high level of protection here? The population base is not so large so any restrictions here should be scientifically based.

I would support a daily bag limit reductions (say five snapper), over locking-up too much seabed. I also support a principal or encouraging fisherman to take the first five legal snapper rather than upgrading and throwing back, say 32cm snapper, which may then die.

My main concern with any mechanism is that it is fair to all and transparent. If a region is to be protected, it should be protected from and for, all. Any proposal to allow only customary take for iwi in any public area is unfair to all New Zealanders and is not giving all equal rights as provided for under our laws and the Treaty of Waitangi. Equality under the law is an important principal and granting special privileges on racial grounds not only contravenes equality but sets a very dangerous precedent - if it is OK to do this in these areas, then why not other areas and when does it stop. It isn't justified, and has to be stopped before it starts.

Thank you for allowing me to submit and I trust that the views of us, the public, will be taken seriously and democratic principles applied. After all, we are a democracy and if a majority of us do not want to be excluded from fishing on racial grounds, then it shouldn't be forced on us by public servant, who are paid for by the public, to serve the public as a whole, and not a small segment of the public.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 12:14 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Comments on "Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Recorded

20 October 2022

Department of Conservation  
Wellington

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to comment on the *Revitalising the Gulf* proposals.

I am disappointed that there are no proposals for full no-take zones which are much needed in the Hauraki Gulf. I object to the idea of "High Protection Zones" that prohibit most of the local population from fishing, but allow local iwi to harvest seafood.

Privilege based on race is objectionable to many people. It also seems to be contrary to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Third Article of the Treaty provides for equal rights and privileges for all subjects irrespective of race. It seems to have been intended to guard against the formation of classes of citizens based on race.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a view on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** Auckland Sea Kayaks | <sup>s 9 (2)(a)</sup> s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 12:18 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hello,

Auckland Sea Kayaks Ltd fully supports the Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposal.

Auckland Sea Kayaks provides marine based education opportunities to youth and sea kayak experiences through the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. We hold a Department of Conservation concession and feel that proposals like this are vital for the health of the gulf.

Please let us know if you require any further information,

Regards

<sup>s 9 (2)(a)</sup>  
<sup>s 9 (2)(a)</sup>  
<sup>s 9 (2)(a)</sup>

*Ngā Mihi (Many thanks),*

*Auckland Sea Kayaks*

<sup>s 9 (2)(a)</sup>

#1 Best Guided Trip in New Zealand by [Wilderness Magazine](#)  
June 2020



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## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) ss 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 2:51 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** OUR Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I totally object to DoC's proposal re the 19 protected zones being for exclusive 'iwi' use. Against every NZ principle on all areas relating to democracy / their twisted interpretation of Te Riti

Let the fight begin.

Rgds,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

---

The sender of this message, s 9 (2)(a) can be contacted at s 9 (2)(a) or via our website at s 9 (2)(a)

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s 9 (2)(a). A Disclosure Statement is available from s 9 (2)(a) on request, free of charge. If you would prefer not to receive any information from s 9 (2)(a) by email, please forward this message to s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 3:17 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I am s 9 (2)(a) of s 9 (2)(a)

I am distressed to read that Iwi will be exempt from the no fishing areas. Not only is it open racism but will undoubtedly lead to untold borderline claims which will make a joke of the no fishing areas. The Treaty of Waitangi states all will have equal rights. The result apart from creating a racist backlash & plundering destroys this attempt to preserve our marine environment.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)



## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 4:38 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** revitalising the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

**Categories:** Recorded

This is separatist, racist legislation. Provisioning special and separate rights to any group of people based solely on skin colour and ancestry is both divisive and racist even when you dress it up as indigenous rights.

IF, the fish life is seriously depleted and needs time to replenish itself, then it needs time from all fishing and shellfish taking.

Traditional quotas has been continuously abused ever since they were first put in place.

We must stop any race based privilege from being institutionalized by legislation.

The hauraki gulf is a treasure of ALL New Zealanders and to infer that a specific racial group is any more environmentally responsible than other New Zealanders is offensive and just racism dressed in socially acceptable language.

DUMP THIS LEGISLATION. IT IS NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE.

Sent from my Galaxy

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 4:42 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** FW: revitalising the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

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

**Categories:** Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a). I am presenting in a personal capacity. I can be contacted by email s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my Galaxy

Subject: revitalising the Hauraki Gulf and its marine life.

This is separatist, racist legislation. Provisioning special and separate rights to any group of people based solely on skin colour and ancestry is both divisive and racist even when you dress it up as indigenous rights.

IF, the fish life is seriously depleted and needs time to replenish itself, then it needs time from all fishing and shellfish taking.

Traditional quotas has been continuously abused ever since they were first put in place.

We must stop any race based privilege from being institutionalized by legislation.

The hauraki gulf is a treasure of ALL New Zealanders and to infer that a specific racial group is any more environmentally responsible than other New Zealanders is offensive and just racism dressed in socially acceptable language.

DUMP THIS LEGISLATION. IT IS NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE.

Sent from my Galaxy

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 7:51 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submit

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

**Categories:** Recorded

We are all equal!  
No to maori customary fishing!

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

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## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 8:08 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Watercare and DOC submission  
**Attachments:** I am writing this submission both as a New Zealander and a person who derives his lively hood from the sea for over 30 years.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I have attached a copy of my submission on the current propsoed restricted regions in the Hauraki Gulf.  
I vote No to these

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Ph s 9 (2)(a)



s 9 (2)(a)

## WaterCare & DOC Hauraki Gulf Submission 2022

I am writing this submission to have this proposal reversed or revised. As a New Zealander and a person who derives his lively hood from the sea for over 30 years.I find the proposed restrictions to be well out of touch with reality and unreasonable to new Zealanders under the treaty of Waitangi and basic rights of the people of New Zealand.

These kinds of restrictions are based on an Apartheid structure of which discriminates and divides a Nation.

In my time as a charter boat operator, never have we been approached by any organization for any discussion on the state of the gulf from our observations.

Although I do agree there are some issues re fisheries, I do not agree with the process that is proposed by DOC in this instance.

In my opinion the fish stocks primarily Snapper have been and appear to be in a much stronger position now than 30 years ago. This is based on the size, volumes, and ease of catch .

The Safety of New Zealander's boating and fishing in small craft is a major concern people would have to fish more exposed waters much more, thus increasing the risk of incidents.

I also have, first hand experience of some Maori not respecting any form of reserves or conservation measures. So by granting what you call traditional rights to Maori is flawed in my opinion. As abuse of rights will still continue. I too am an indigenous to this country I feel the proposal is totally wrong.

Just by closing off areas of the Gulf will not achieve the result that you are looking for, however it will make normal New Zealanders become offenders in your eyes.

Also the Restricted Cable regions should be gazetted as Marine Reserves, this would be a simple process as they are already zoned off and accepted as special areas of no fishing activities. This would seriously increase the reserve status of the Gulf.

Also Marinas should be Gazetted as Marine Reserves as they are prime breeding grounds, this too would increase the shallow water and inshore reserve status.

As a New Zealand citizen I believe this proposal is extremely unfair and unworkable both for the private sector and commercial.

A much greater concern to the inshore fishery is the effect of Terrestrial run off by Human development and the importation of foreign organisms via ballast water taking hold on the fore shore and sea bed.

The activity of recreational fishing is not the problem although I agree it does have an effect.

From commercial perspective this would effectively end recreational chartering in this region, but I guess that is what you are trying to do anyhow, as we are seen as a part of the problem. I would truly like to see a more open and realistic approach to any issues without creating exclusion zones. Especially as the people who are closest to the regions proposed have not been consulted.

How does Water care get involved with this? This would have to be outside of their jurisdiction.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and act on the best interests of all with all the information.

Restricting fishing activity will not increase the fishing stocks significantly.

Sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

s 9 (2)(a)

[Redacted signature]

## Sea Change

---

**From:** iCloud s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 9:33 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Sea Change Plan

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposal to establish 19 protected zones in the Hauraki Guld is admirable, but does not go nearly far enough. As a recreational user of the Gulf for 35 years, I have witnessed its sad decline : it is now a shadow of its former self. It is imperative that “no-take’ areas are implemented, as these are the only truly functional way of revitalizing the Gulf. I am also dismayed that there proposal has racist undertones, by permitting certain ethnic groups, the right to continue to harvest from all zones in the Gulf – this is appalling, and runs contrary to the principles of the ToW : that all NZers must be treated equally.

DOC will loose massive support from a huge majority of the users of the Gulf, if they push through and implement these flawed proposals – and that will make life very difficult for the, for them for decades to come.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 9:34 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** One rule for all

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

**Categories:** Recorded

If you are going to impose a fishing ban on 19 Areas off the coast of the Coromandel ,then do so for all New Zealanders .We all shop from supermarkets , drive cars ,watch TV ,live in houses ,take hot showers what the hell us a Manga Whenua or whatever the hell you call it ? We are all Kiwis who defended this Country from the Nazis together Greenstone clubs would have been useless again cannons and machine guns.Stop talking shit and treat us all equal as the Treaty of Waitangi demands you do . Kind regards s 9 (2)(a)



## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) <s 9 (2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 10:20 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** NO - "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi

I do NOT support any customary rights to take from an area, if this is a marine reserve it is a reserve for all and NO TAKE zones for all should remain in place

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 11:44 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

To Whom It May Concern,

The state of the Hauraki Gulf and other areas of water around NZ, rivers, creeks, lakes, ocean, are in dire straits. Successive Governments have been negligent in stopping the degradation of these areas. Now is the time to start rejuvenating the flora and fauna of these bodies of water before it's too late. The Hauraki Gulf is a disgrace.

I am right behind the proposal to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf. In some environmental areas NZ does really well eg. the predator-free goal for 2050, but fails dismally with its care (lack of) for waterways.

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 8:14 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Recorded

What is proposed is a good start. Personally I would like to see all the Thames estuary made a *conditional* reserve. My belief is that fish because of their phenomenal breeding capacity, can restore themselves in a very short period of time. I believe that contamination of the environment is probably a bigger issue than the amount of fishing. This contamination comes from urban and vehicle wash as much as anything but also from land activity. Regularly I fly over the estuary between Miranda and Thames where the silt from the drains is very visible for maybe a KM seaward.

The item that concerns me more than anything else is Maori Customary Rights. (I have watched near Glinks Gully, Maori on 4WD taking 3 x 200litre drums of Toheroa days in a row.) Further the cost to people to support Maori Customary Rights was never part of the Treaty. Nor were Customary Rights in terms of the treaty to exclude other races of people. We need to work together as one nation ignoring racist preferences or nothing will ultimately be successful. Racism in all its forms must stop if New Zealand Aotearoa is to be a successful nation. This includes fish and fishing.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 8:27 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](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 think it is vital to increase the number of no-take marine reserves(MPA) and HPA's, they provide a multitude of functions including but not limited to; providing refuge for fish, offering unique scientific research areas, providing areas where fish can grow to their full potential and provide brood stock to ensure recruitment including spillover into surrounding areas, providing recreational wet libraries, and providing bio-diverse areas which are proven to increase carbon uptake by seaweeds.

Current marine protection in New Zealand is a disgrace, we have gone from world leaders in protection to lagging far far behind. It is imperative that protection is increase in the Hauraki Gulf, the increase in protection would provide benefits across multiple sectors

Thank you

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 9:06 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** revive our gulf submission

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi There

My submission is in broad support of the establishment of the new HPA's, seafloor protection areas and protected areas.

I do not support the expression of customary practices by mana whenua within HPA's. My reasoning for this is that if we want to have a united national identity then we cannot have separate rules for separate racial groups.

s 9 (2)(a)

Operations Team Leader

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

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## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 9:32 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) . I am making an individual submission.

My contact details are s 9 (2)(a)

I am a resident of s 9 (2)(a) and a keen user of the Marlborough Sounds. We also need to see proactive protection of our seabed and waters in the Marlborough Sounds.

I am in full support of the of the Revitalising the Gulf proposal because I see it also being a benefit to all the other areas in the country needing legal protection to assist the areas restoration.

There needs to be a greater balance between the needs of recreational and commercial fishers and the need to keep in balance bio diversity and environmental protection. I am greatly concerned about climate change, over exploitation, pollution pressures and land and sea desecration and the affect it is having on our whenua, awa and moana. We need to take decisive and quick action so we can make it better for our mokopuna.

Ngā mihi nui

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 10:44 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

Dear DOC team

I'm writing regarding the Revitalising our Gulf proposal.

My name is s 9 (2)(a). I am a s 9 (2)(a). I was born in s 9 (2)(a), and have lived there all my life.

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the Revitalising the Gulf proposal, and more than that to call for more extensive and urgent action to protect the health of the Gulf and its responsible stewardship. The proposed High Protection Areas and Seafloor Protection Areas, along with existing marine park extensions, are great. They will help. But they are pitifully small and tokenistic.

Without more extensive protections, there is no reasonable expectation that the overall fishing pressures on the Gulf will decrease. This means we are signing up for better protection in some areas, but more guarantees of overfishing and complete dead zones in all the surrounding parts of the Gulf.

Is this really good stewardship, good leadership, from DOC? Or is this just a toe-in-the-water attempt to do the right thing, but within an overarching priority of minimising any negative reactions and "bad press"? Are DOC really exercising their duty of care to current and future occupants of the Gulf, or are you being held hostage by the vocal but minoritarian howls of protest from groups too stupid and short-sighted to see their own medium and long-term interests over the next undersized snapper they plan to drag out of the gulf and get fake internet points for on Instagram?

The Revitalising the Gulf plan is a good start, and I wholeheartedly support it. But don't lie to us - don't sell it as "revitalising the gulf" when the expert opinions surely do not indicate it will do that. Perhaps "Making Middling Tweaks That We Hope Might Have Some Positive Effects But Which We Mostly Just Hope Will Minimise Any Bad Press for Us" might be a better title?

Kia haha, kia mia. Spearhead the change that is needed, and ignore the howls of protest. Future generations will thank you.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 10:47 am  
**To:** Sea Change; Duane McLeod  
**Subject:** Feedback

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Enacting apartheid policy into the Hauraki Gulf under the guise of marine conservation is undemocratic and wrong.

I support whole heartedly marine revitalisation and conservation thru the extension of marine reserves. However all users of the gulf are entitled to equal rights and say. I voice equals one vote. Special privileges and rights should not be determined by ethnicity. Doc should not be attempting to tweak our democracy by pushing for apartheid policy to be enacted into law.

Any legitimate guardians of the gulf would support expansion of marine reserves with one law for all not one set of rules for local iwi and another for everyone else.

It seems that in this proposal iwi rights trumps conservation.

There is no compelling reason for local iwi to take from these proposed areas. If iwi can access the special protection areas they can just as easily access the areas outside just like everybody else.

Regards s 9 (2)(a)  
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## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 10:59 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

:

[seachange@doc.govt.nz](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 have had the opportunity to visit several marine reserves with EMR and these are remarkable places with great biodiversity of flora and fauna. These are very unlike the other places I see when I dive recreationally, highlighting the need for much greater marine protection across Aotearoa.

I am in full support of increasing the number of marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf, and indeed, around our entire coastline. If we wish to enjoy the underwater experience, to see what lives below the surface, to harvest fish and shellfish sustainably, and to provide future generations with these same opportunities, we need to protect more areas now!

I am in full support of "Revitalising the Gulf".

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 11:42 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

Please consider the health of the Hauraki Gulf for the future of younger New Zealanders. It is a gem which needs further conservation efforts.

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 12:02 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Proposed Gulf Changes

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi

I am apposed to all of these changes. Howevet removal of commercial fishing from all of the gulf I do support. I do not support a racial based bias for Maori to have supposed customary rights that are not even backed by the original Treaty signed by 500 chiefs when they ceded sovereignty to the crown.

We have enough protection zones and the rec fishing of the mokes is so low it would not require protection however commercial take should be banned.

Yours

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, 21 October 2022 1:50 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf  
**Attachments:** revitalising-the-gulf-information-document.pdf

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

**Categories:** Reply sent

Hi

I am the spokesperson for the Hauraki Gulf Users Group representing over 15,000 members and we will be submitting on the attached document, listing marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf.

I would like to be included on any list that DOC ,MPI or Fisheries emails on any proposed changes or legislation that effects the Hauraki Gulf.

Could you confirm that this can be arranged.

Regards

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 2:09 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Seachange Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection & Revitalisation Proposal

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia Ora,

I support the Seachange Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection & Revitalisation Proposal and the additions/extentions of Marine Reserves in the Hauraki Gulf.

I do not believe this Proposal goes far enough to protect and revitalise the Gulf. More restrictions and Marine Reserves are needed. Many species of fish, shellfish and birdlife are on the brink of collapse and we do not have time for more data gathering.

I do not agree with Moari having customary rights particularly in no take areas and where biodiversity is suffering (with the exception of perhaps kina). Maori themselves often recognise this before others and often instigate a rahui in at risk areas.

The governance of this Marine Protection Revitalization needs to be made up of those people best suited for the job who can manage and implement it as quickly and efficiently as possible.

I have been a recreational fisherperson most of my life (particularly Coromandel Harbour area) and have witnessed the incredible decline in abundance. I no longer fish due to this reason. Big bird 'work ups' are very scarce and now only last a short while before dispersing. Little Blue penguins are no longer heard nesting and not seen at sea and are often found washed up on beaches after starving. Pods of whales and dolphin are much rarer to sight.

Kina barrens are commonplace and having a huge impact on the marine ecosystem.

All bottom Trawling needs to stop immediately including scallop dredging. Scallops have virtually disappeared in many areas. I would say their breeding is reliant on high numbers to be successful and once it falls below this, together with dredging damage they are fast disappearing.

There needs to be a ban or limits of taking small shellfish, crabs etc from shores. The ecosystem is being depleted in this way.

A licence is required to use a haul, set or throw net in Western Australia. Only those individuals who hold recreational netting licences may take fish (up to their daily bag limit) from the net. Once all the netters who possess licences have each caught their daily bag limit, the net or nets must be removed from the water We need to implement this in NZ. I have seen 2 people dragging a long net along a beach in Northland. The first drag netted about 100 pipers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> drag I counted 150 pipers. I know the catch limit for bait is 50 per day per person. There was a couple of families there. I can find no info on who this limit applies to when all were involved removing the pipers. They probably caught the whole school. This needs to stop.

More marine reserves and fishing restrictions would also mean greater snorkling and increase in tourist attractions to remote areas. With coral reefs fast dying off, we have the ability to greatly enhance snorkling activities especially where blue maomao are found and etc and warming seas and marine sanctuaries may in future create the likes of the Poor Knights along our coasts.

I believe that shallow areas and reefs close to our coast need to be protected from any fishing from boats – they always have the option to travel further out and in fact are as there are no fish closer in. This would allow more breeding stock to grow to a good size and have some chance of replacing the fish taken.

Nga Mihi,

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

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 2:16 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION to Seachange Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection & Revitalisation Proposal

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

**Categories:** Recorded

### Seachange Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection & Revitalisation SUBMISSION

Kia Ora,

I support the Seachange Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection & Revitalisation Proposal and the additions/extensions of Marine Reserves in the Hauraki Gulf.

I think we need far stronger limits and bigger areas of protection .to make any difference.

I do not agree with Moari having customary rights in no take areas except for kina.

The governance of this Marine Protection Revitalization needs to be made up of those people best suited for the job who can manage and implement it as quickly and efficiently as possible.

All bottom Trawling needs to stop immediately including scallop dredging.

There needs to be a ban or limits of taking small shellfish, crabs, periwinkle etc from shores.

Nga Mihi,

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 2:18 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

I'm a private citizen and support the Revitalising the Gulf proposal to for further protection of marine ecosystems.

s 9 (2)(a)



## Sea Change

---

**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 7:13 pm  
**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: Submission Revitalising the Gulf

### Message

I've visited Te Hawere a Maki numerous times with family, friends and guided groups and the awe everyone feels cannot be matched by an unprotect Hauraki Gulf.

The beautiful colours that you see within a reserve from fish, seaweed and everything in between show you that the environment is thriving. It is so important to protect as much of these areas as we can so that they don't look like the dying marine areas in other parts of the Gulf.

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 7:23 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Recorded, Reply sent

I used to be a fisherman, I have decided it is a cruel practice and there are too many greedies taking too many fish. The majority of them let the fish they catch just die in the boat. I think much more checking by inspectors is necessary.

Regards, s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 6:42 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Sea Change Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi

As for the proposed changes why do all citizens not have the same rights and responsibilities when it comes to protecting the marine environment? This should not simply sit with one part of our population.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 7:02 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

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

**Categories:** Reply sent, Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a), I am a concerned grandmother, I support the revitalisation of the Hauraki gulf proposal, as I wish future generations to be able to see what our marine environment really was like before NZ was colonised (like at the Leigh marine reserve).

Sent from my iPhone

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 10:39 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection areas  
**Attachments:** Submission Hauraki Gulf.docx

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Attached is my submission on this important topic. Please accept this and acknowledge receipt of my submission  
s 9 (2)(a)

# Submission On “Revitalizing the Gulf Marine Protection Plans”

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Phone s 9 (2)(a)

## Introduction

I and my family have been associated with the Hauraki Gulf for 100 years. I have a huge attachment to every aspect of the Gulf and keen interest in nature,

As a child, I was isolated with my mother at our s 9 (2)(a) Our main food then, and right up until the advent of faster boats to Waiheke, was to collect and eat big rock mussels for dinner just a couple of rocks past the end of s 9 (2)(a) where we lived, This diet was varied with Tuatua collected from the beach.

s 9 (2)(a) with my husband and child ,and working the land and growing vegetables at s 9 (2)(a) , once more, our main food was Tuatua which we collected. The mussels were smaller and harder to get s 9 (2)(a). Today, even mussel spat has disappeared from the rocks round much of s 9 (2)(a)

I was a stakeholder in the initial formation of the s 9 (2)(a)

## Actions:

- 1) I approve of the HPAs and SPAs as a concept
- 2) BUT I deplore the LACK OF NEW AREAS being designated
- 3) AND I demand that much stricter regulations must be gazetted for these areas
- 4) And I deplore the concept that the protection of the Gulf and the above areas will be given over to local Maori who can take seafood on the basis of tradition but I cannot fulfill my family's lifelong traditions to access seafood.\*
- 5) It is a further major flaw in that Maori who obtain Legal Customary Marine Title (CMT) to an area will be able to bypass even the new HPA and SPA plans and agreements . What a shambles!\*\*
- 6) I believe it is the responsibility of all NZers to look after the Hauraki Gulf and regenerate it.
- 7) A new body- a Council of Guardians chosen from a variety of people with a lot of love for and experience of the Gulf including local iwi should be set up to really defend the regenerate the Gulf but with no fixed proportion ethnically. Composition to change every 3 years by election.

## Examples:

\*Experience with “co-governance “ of the Auckland Maunga had clearly demonstrated that the outcome is detrimental to all with the invasion of unwanted species (weeds) The lauded “caretaking role” of Maori is clearly not in evidence. All the volcanic cones are now covered by weeds and noxious

plants uncontrolled, and the supposed planting of native trees promised has not occurred. The only action has been the removal of very old European trees which is a detrimental action. Persons like myself who spent many years going up these Maunga regularly are now deprived of ever accessing them. (I am in a wheelchair due to an accident)

The Council is supposed to be in co-governance with Maori in taking care of the Maunga but has totally abandoned its responsibility over to Maori. so what is the reality of the following

"Customary practices will be managed to achieve the biodiversity objectives agreed with mana whenua for each site." Who will police this if no-one but the local Maori make the decisions?

### **Here is the conundrum of the reality of ethnic selection**

See below

Family-Who can take Kaimoana? When is one a Maori? Where does it stop?

My husband . Maori  $\frac{1}{4}$  cast

2 sons  $\frac{1}{8}$  cast

Husband's Grandchildren

2 grandchildren: One blue eyed blond  $\frac{1}{16}$  cast- should they have access?. What about their children?

My Grandchildren-

2 dark 1 lighter -Look Maori (Actually Moroccan) How can anyone tell the difference if they claim to be Maori?

2 grandchildren -Look Chinese but part Maori -How to tell?

3 great-grandchildren Mother Maori- Tongan so her children should have rights to seafood but their cousins should not?

**While this is personal history what kind of society are we setting up that selected individuals in a family could possibly have rights to some foods and others are excluded on the basis of ethnicity?**

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 10:43 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalise Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

It is my sincere belief that ALL fishing in the Hauraki Gulf should be banned in the commonly recognised spawning season.

Experts will know more than me than the timing but I believe September and October are appropriate months

I submit this on my own behalf

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)



## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 11:08 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Cc:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Subject:** The Noises HPA

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia ora

This is to confirm The Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust's (HGCT) support to The Noises application for an HPA.

The HGCT was established in 2007 with its vision being "For the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana to be abundant with wildlife, supporting diverse and functioning forests and wetlands, healthy soils, clean water and fresh air. A place where caring communities take effective action to protect, restore and enhance its natural beauty, balance and well-being".

We were involved in running the Waiheke Walking Festival between 2013-2016 and from this the concept of Predator Free Waiheke/Te Korowai o Waiheke was born. We were instigative in running pilot studies in 2016 that eventually led to the successful bid to **Predator Free 2050 NZ** (PFNZ) and the project became the 4th project to receive funding from PFNZ. in 2018. We have acted as the financial umbrella for the project. Visit [www.tekorowaiwaiheke.org](http://www.tekorowaiwaiheke.org)

During the same period we were working on how we could help improve the state of Tikapa Moana. **Alongside the Waiheke** Local Board we were responsible for securing the services of s 9 (2)(a) do some initial studies on the possibilities for potential Marine Reserves off the coast of the island in 2015/16. We were instigative in the establishment of the Waiheke Marine Project (WMP), a community/Mana whenua led project, with Trustees being involved in the 3 day Future Search hui in 2019 which led to the establishment of the WMP. We continue to be the umbrella funder for the project which has been supported by many organisations including GIFT, Auckland Council, DoC, Auckland Foundation to name but a few. Full details can be found at [www.waihekemarineproject.org](http://www.waihekemarineproject.org).

Through these early efforts at investigating what could be done to improve the state of Tikapa Moana our then Chair s 9 (2)(a) met s 9 (2)(a) and became aware of what they were looking to do to protect the waters around The Noises. s 9 (2)(a) was also involved in the Future Search event and has been an active supporter of the WMP. The co-ordinator of the WMP s 9 (2)(a) has been in constant liaison with s 9 (2)(a) kept the WMP and HGCT up to speed with the s 9 (2)(a) plans. The HGCT's current chair s 9 (2)(a), as the owner of s 9 (2)(a), is actively involved in the current activities of the WMP

As such the HGCT fully supports the Neureuters proposal for an HPA around the Noises. Should you have any queries on this submission please contact **s 9 (2)(a)** on **s 9 (2)(a)** or **s 9 (2)(a)** on **s 9 (2)(a)**

Nga mihi

HGCT Trustees

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

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 1:17 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

22 October 2022.

I represent myself and my immediate family.

I have been boating and fishing in the Hauraki Gulf for over 70 years and I am fortune enough to have been a part time resident of s 9 (2)(a) for 24 years. I have been sailing regularly to the Barrier for over 64 years and know this stretch of water so well. Over 80 trips in the last 14 years. I am very fearful and angry at the rapid moves towards co-governance of the Hauraki Gulf.

I totally agree that must be urgent conservation measures implemented to restore the Gulf's waters to a much healthier state, however I fail to see anything constructive coming from the exclusion of all but Maori from fishing in proposed, protected areas of the Gulf.

The so called, consultation process concerning management and governance of the Gulf has been blatantly, heavily weighted if favour of Maori.

Also any commercially fished corridor through productive areas of the Gulf would be an obvious sop to these interests and to certain shareholders of these companies.

We all are aware that Customary Fishing has largely been a rort and in my opinion, this is very unlikely to change under co-governance. In fact breach of regulations by Maori will inevitably increase. How will the new, large protected areas of the Gulf be policed.?

The restoration of the Hauraki Gulf must be undertaken and guided by those who have real and long term experience of its waters, combined with science and not just career politicians, academics or Maori activists.

We certainly need immediate and good governance of the Gulf, however it is unacceptable that this planned governance is so biased towards Maori.

Sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 2:14 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Gulf HPA'a

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

**Categories:** Recorded

s 9 (2)(a)

I oppose the 8A HPA as the Mokohinau Islands are remote and self protecting as it is.  
8a should be a SPA otherwise Fenal Is and Maori rocks will get increased recreational pressure.

This also stops charter businesses from operating fishing trips to the Mokohinau islands by far the most popular activity.

14 Oppose HPA should be SPA

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October 2022 5:24 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Support for HPAs

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi there DoC,

I strongly support your move to create new high protection areas in the Hauraki Gulf. I am especially pleased to see that you plan to create an HPA around the Noises, a marine area rich in biodiversity with a special group of people advocating for its enhanced protection. More protected areas are an essential way to create a healthy ecosystem.

Kind 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:** Sunday, 23 October 2022 10:03 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** We support the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Kia Ora,

We are writing in support of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill. Giving back to mother ocean/tangaroa and protecting spaces for perpetuity for next generations. By having the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill in place we will be meeting our kaitiakitanga and mana whenua responsibilities.

We tautoko all those who have paved the way with expertise for the bill to come into fruition. Nine new protected areas a step in the right direction.

This is a significant act/bill that generations to come will respect.  
Nga Mihi

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) ) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 23 October 2022 10:57 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Submission on Revitalising the Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I would like to make feedback on the “Revitalising the gulf Marine protection proposals”

I enjoy boating and recreational fishing. I am a bit doubtful about my personal ethics of continuing to fish, but my take is small and occasional and I love being out on the water and the shared experience of boating with friends and family and especially with visitors who have not had that opportunity before.

I am a member of OBC. I have been impressed by the clubs approach to encouraging marine protection. I have been unimpressed by many members whose only goal is to be allowed to pillage the sea just like they always have done.

I despair at the steady erosion of the marine ecosystem. Which I think in NZ waters is mainly attributable to overfishing and seafood gathering.

Every year boat sales increase and fishing technology improves. The harm caused and need for protection escalates.

I strongly support all of your proposed areas with greater protection.

I am disappointed at how small the areas included are. Yes this will help protect biodiversity in those limited areas, but the overall marine environment will continue to degrade without stronger measures.

s 9 (2)(a)

## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 23 October 2022 11:50 am  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf

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

**Categories:** Recorded

I am writing to express my support for all parts of the proposed plan.

Scientific evidence has shown that marine protection areas work and have a positive impact on fish and invertebrate stocks in surrounding areas, and improves the breeding opportunities for sealife. I am particularly glad that there are additional seabed protection areas.

If anything I am disappointed that the proposal does not go further in 2 areas:

1.  
It still allows for bottom dredging and the dumping of dredging waste in large areas of the gulf - Seeing how destructive both practices are I would have liked them to be more restricted than the current plan proposes.

2.  
There are no protection proposals covering the internationally important feeding grounds for migratory wading seabirds located in the inner Waitemata harbour and in the Firth of Thames. The feeding grounds around the bird breeding area in Miranda are of particular importance.

However, I understand that a wider proposal may not be able to get the broad consent required to implement it, and the current proposal makes important steps in the right direction. As such I support it in full.

Regards

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

Sent from my HUAWEI P30



## Sea Change

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**From:** s 9 (2)(a)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 23 October 2022 12:09 pm  
**To:** Sea Change  
**Subject:** Revitalising the Gulf - feedback of s 9 (2)(a)

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

**Categories:** Recorded

Hi, Department of Conservation,

This is my feedback on the Revitalising the Gulf proposals.

I welcome more marine protected areas to enhance the health of the Hauraki Gulf, but 'High Protection' areas are inadequate and do not provide appropriate recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all.

Granting 'customary take' rights to iwi alone is racist, contrary to equal citizenship in the Treaty of Waitangi and to UN human rights obligations. It flies in the face of the collective responsibility that we all have to protect and revitalise the Hauraki Gulf.

No-take marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act are the best way to restore the Gulf. I recommend the 'High Protection Areas' are instead designated 'marine reserve'. These areas would be strictly 'no take'.

I welcome the proposal for new 'Seafloor Protection' Areas.

Regards,

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