

**Date:** Monday 9 June 2014  
**Time:** 1.00pm  
**Meeting Room:** Reception Lounge  
**Venue:** Auckland Town Hall  
301-305 Queen Street  
Auckland

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## Hauraki Gulf Forum

# OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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### ITEM TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 7 Presentation 1
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## 2014 Hauraki Gulf SoE Report:

### General Approach and Key Changes

Shane Kelly, Carina Sim-Smith and Stacey Faire  
(Coast and Catchment)  
Johanna Pierre,  
(JPEC Ltd)  
Dan Hikuroa  
(Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, University of Auckland)



## Outline

- Scope and structure of report
- Changing pressures and environmental outcomes
- Outcomes for tāngata whenua
- Responses: integrated management and strategic priorities

## Scope

- Forum required to produce SoE report every 3 years
- Content specified by the HGMPA
  - State of the Hauraki Gulf Environment
  - Progress towards integrated management
  - Strategic priorities identified by the Forum

## Strategic Priorities

- **R:** A regenerating network of marine protected areas and island sanctuaries.
- **E:** Enhancement of fisheries with improved environmental outcomes.
- **M:** Mana whenua relationships reflected in resource management practice.
- **A:** Active land management to minimise inputs of sediments, nutrients and contaminants.
- **K:** Knowledge utilisation within an ecosystem-based management framework.

## Moving forward

- 2011 report backward looking
  - Established a baseline
  - Described how we got to where we are today
- 2014 report forward looking
  - Where we are today?
  - What's changing and where is it leading?

## Report structure

- Executive summary and introduction
- Situation analysis – what's changing
  - Pressures, management frameworks, outcomes for tāngata whenua, and knowledge generation
- Environmental indicators
  - Similar to 2011
- Adequacy of the response
  - Strategic priorities and integrated management
- Discussion and conclusions
- Case studies



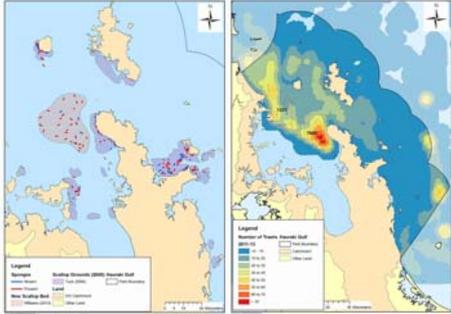
### Pressures

- Auckland's population is growing faster than any other region in the country
- Increasing demand for land development
- Demand for holiday homes driving coastal development
  - number of houses in popular holiday spots is increasing faster than the number of residents
- Pressure on aging pipe networks, which were never designed for today's needs



### Pressures

- Thousands of tonnes of fish and shellfish are extracted each year.
- Around 12,000 bottom trawls between 2011 and 2013, and 27,600 commercial scallop dredge tows between 2010 and 2012.
- Serious concerns about the capture of seabirds.



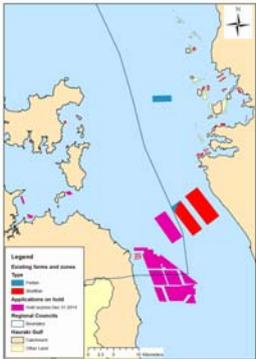
### Scallop dredging and bottom trawling

The figure consists of two maps of the Hauraki Gulf. The left map shows 'Scallop Dredging (2010-2013) - Hauraki Gulf' with a legend for 'Number of Tows' (0-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100) and 'Days of Dredging' (0-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100). The right map shows 'Number of Tows, Hauraki Gulf' with a legend for 'Number of Tows' (0-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100) and 'Days of Dredging' (0-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100).



### Pressures

- Predicted nitrogen loads from the Hauraki plains are among the highest in NZ and modelling suggests they will keep increasing out to 2020
- 2011 aquaculture reforms designated 390 ha in two fish farm zones
  - Maximum discharge of 1100 tonne of nitrogen allowed from fish farms
  - Additional to 3716 tonnes estimated from southern FoT rivers
- Around 4800 ha of spat catching applications coming off hold – over double existing farm space



### Marine farms

The map shows the Hauraki Gulf with various marine farm zones. The legend includes: 'Farming zones and sites' (Blue), 'State' (Red), 'Municipal Councils' (Green), 'Hauraki Gulf' (Yellow), and 'Other land' (Grey).



### Indicators: key changes

- Fisheries
  - Fisheries target for snapper adjusted up
  - Large new scallop bed
  - Impacts of long lining on seabirds
- Sediment contamination
  - Improving copper concentrations in some areas
  - Worsening zinc concentrations in others



### Indicators: key changes

- Nutrient driven productivity leading to seasonal sags in oxygen and acidification.
  - Preliminary results and no consensus on the significance of this issue
- Sediment
  - Ecological effects detected at more sites
  - Auckland TSS concentrations increasing (previously a predominantly declining trend)
  - Mangrove expansion appears to have largely halted in indicator estuaries



### Indicators: key changes

- Marine invasive species
  - Four more detected
- Brydes whales
  - Three more killed
- Coastal rubbish
  - Declining around Auckland
- Ongoing coastal subdivision



### Indicators: key changes

- Islands
  - Re-vegetation, pest eradications and translocations of endemic species continuing apace
  - Kauri die-back spreading
- Marine protected areas
  - No change
  - Marine reserves only cover around 0.3% of the Gulf



### Summing up

- Indicators showing a mix of:
  - Improvement
  - Progressive decline and potential loss
  - Trend reversals
  - No change
- Still working from a low baseline
- Pressures intensifying



### Questions and Comments



## Management Responses

### Where to next?

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Johanna Pierre  
Shane Kelly

## Overview

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- Recap strategic issues
- What is going well?
- Where are changes needed?
- Why?
- Where to next?



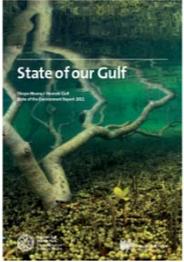
Photo: DOC

## Strategic Issues

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Five strategic issues:

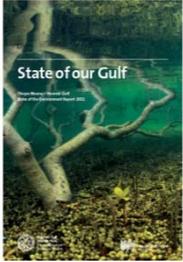
- enhancing fisheries with improving associated environmental outcomes;
- creating a regenerating network of marine protected areas and island sanctuaries;
- ensuring mana whenua relationships are reflected in resource management practice;



## Strategic Issues

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- improving land management to minimise inputs of sediments, nutrients and contaminants;
- building the knowledge needed to work toward ecosystem-based management.



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Photo: DOC

## Island sanctuaries

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- Proposed Aotea Conservation Park
- Pest eradications and translocations to restore fauna
- Focus: terrestrial birds (i.e., not bats, seabirds, plants)
- Still a lot more potential (> 500 islands in the Gulf!)
- Many islands are still pest-free



Photo: data.modelcosystem.org.nz

### Mana whenua

- Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan: new controls on activities in places of significance or value
- Partnership with stakeholders: Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari
- Hauraki iwi envtal management plan seeks to improve mauri of Gulf



Image: <http://kikio.com>

### Improving the knowledge base

- Ongoing research in many areas
  - Mapping and classifying ecosystems
  - Defining ecological infrastructure
  - Return on resource exploitation
  - Interrelationships: Land-sea
  - Adapting to the future



Image: D.M.P. Pierre

### Overview

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Photo: DOC

### Enhancing fisheries: Policies and Plans

- Fisheries 2030
  - Utilisation + sustainability -> outcomes
- Fisheries Plans
  - Grouped fish stocks
- Annual Operational Plans
- Harvest Strategy Standard
  - Stocks of single species
- Broad alignment with HGMPA



Photo: J. Pierre

### Enhancing fisheries: Decisions

- Total allowable catches
  - Crayfish
  - Scallops
  - Finfish
- SNA1 management review



Photo: J. Pierre

### Enhancing fisheries: Crayfish and scallops

- Crayfish catch limit reduced
  - Focus on single-species harvest
  - Gulf ecosystem function not factored into setting of catch limit
- Scallop catch limit increased
  - New areas made available for dredging
  - Benthic habitat impacts



Photo: [www.infonews.co.nz/news.cfm?id=6090](http://www.infonews.co.nz/news.cfm?id=6090)

### Enhancing fisheries: Snapper

- Voluntary and mandatory measures
- TAC increase despite stock status
- Stock management decision not aligned with MPI policy
- Challenges Fisheries 2030
- All in accordance with the Fisheries Act



Photo: J. Pierre

### Enhancing fisheries: What are the issues?

- Managing single species to targets (not time-bound)
- Quota Management Areas larger than the Gulf
- Priorities differ
- Focus on legislative bottom lines



Photo: J. Pierre

### Enhancing fisheries: How to get back on track?

- Integrate fishing better amongst other uses and values
- Standards as targets and bottom lines as "insurance"
- Ecosystem-based fisheries management
- In accordance with the Fisheries Act
- Paradigm shift needed: what do we want the ecosystem state to be?



Photo: www.tapeka.com/links.htm

### Marine Protected Areas

- MPAs = 0.3% of HGMP
- Failed past attempts to create GBI reserve
  - Currently with Great Barrier Local Board
  - Not a "traditional" marine reserve
- Proposal mooted off Waiheke

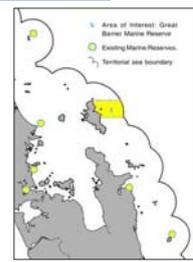


Image: www.seafriends.org.nz/issues/war/gbires.htm

### Marine Protected Areas: What are the issues?

- Marine Reserves Act is in its 40s!
  - Created 1971
  - Inflexible
  - Not current best practice
- Some tools not well-utilised
- Locally-led initiatives taking over
  - Kaikoura
  - Fiordland

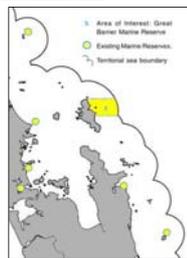


Image: www.seafriends.org.nz/issues/war/gbires.htm

### Marine Protected Areas: How to get back on track?

- Better use the tools available
- Update the Marine Reserves Act
- Marine spatial planning
  - "rational organisation of uses of the marine environment and the interactions of those uses"
  - Transparently manages allocation issues
  - Everyone gets something
  - No-one gets everything



Image: www.seachange.org.nz

### Active Land Management: Central government

- Weakening RMA's environmental provisions
  - e.g., ecosystems' intrinsic values, environmental quality
  - "creep" towards increased value of economic objectives
- Review of National Policy Statement on Freshwater
  - National Objectives Framework
  - Minimum standards that risk becoming targets
- Aquaculture: an imminent issue



### Active Land Management: Councils

- Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan
- Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement
- Give effect to HGMPA
- Aim to reduce effects of land-based activities on freshwater and coastal water quality
- Details supporting approaches TBC
- Auckland: signalled intent to work with Waikato

### Strategic Issues

Five strategic issues:

- enhancing fisheries with improving associated environmental outcomes;
- creating a regenerating network of marine protected areas and island sanctuaries;
- ensuring mana whenua relationships are reflected in resource management practice;



### Strategic Issues

- improving land management to minimise inputs of sediments, nutrients and contaminants;
- building the knowledge needed to work toward ecosystem-based management.



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### Barriers to success

REMAK strategic issues identified but:

- Legislation not well integrated to address competing uses and values
- Need to reconcile differing objectives
- Non-binding (agreed) priorities
- Mismatched operational scales
  - Gulf, QMA, EEZ



### Changing landscapes: Integration

- HGMPA is clear about the need for integrated management
- By central government
  - NPOAs – Seabirds, Sharks
  - Natural Resources Sector
- By Councils
  - Auckland, Waikato
- Changing but still insufficient integration to deliver the Forum's vision



Photo: Duncan Wright, CC BY-SA 2.0

### Overview

- Recap strategic issues
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Photo: DOC

### Changing landscapes: Stakeholders

- Management agencies make decisions
- Stakeholders are responsible for actions that change the Gulf's future
- Role of stakeholders in management increasing
  - Nationally (e.g., Land and Water Forum)
  - Regionally (e.g., Kaikoura, Fiordland)
  - Gulf issues (e.g., SNA 1)

### Changing landscapes: Stakeholders

- This larger role brings responsibility!
  - Less just a "set of opinions"
  - Kaitiaki, stewardship
  - Less confrontation, more collaboration
- Less "me" and more "us"
- Another step towards better integrated management



Photo: www.afma.gov.au

### The future

- 2011 SoE – "bold, sustained and initiatives steps" required
  - Evidence for these?
- Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari
  - Stakeholder-driven, mana whenua partnership
  - Ecologically-focused spatial management plan
  - Non-statutory plan in 2015, voluntary uptake
- In general, the opposite seems to be occurring
- What ecosystem state do we want?



Photo: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

### Thank you



Photo: www.charterworld.com