

## Appendix 1

### 2017 State of our Gulf report

#### 1.1 Background and purpose

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is required to produce an assessment of the state of the environment every three years, including progress towards integrated management and responses to strategic and prioritised issues.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is an inter-agency body, convened under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act. Its funding and administrative support is provided by Auckland Council.

In 2011 the Hauraki Gulf Forum completed a comprehensive assessment, placing monitoring information within a historical and whole of system context, drawing conclusions about state and trends, and identifying a management response framework consistent with the Forum's stated vision.

In 2014 the state of the environment report updated monitoring information and reviewed significant policy initiatives over the three year period, notably an integrated collaborative, spatial planning process.

#### 1.2 Scope

The 2017 report is intended as a further update and review. It is expected to:

- 1) Provide a condensed background section that outlines the purpose of the report, summarises the historical context, and provides an update of events occurring since the 2014 report that influence or signify pressures on the Gulf.
- 2) Incorporate tangata whenua perspectives, through relevant and appropriate references, indicator information, and/or case studies.
- 3) Highlight areas of innovation through case studies, including:
  - Industry initiatives, e.g. in regard to environmental standards, whales, seabirds, biosecurity etc.
  - Community initiatives, e.g. in relation to terrestrial and marine restoration.
  - Tangata whenua initiatives.
- 4) Update indicator sets used in the 2011 and 2014 reports and draw conclusions on trends. The service provider should also consider whether additional indicators are needed.

The indicators used in the previous report were:

##### **Fisheries**

- The fisheries status of the top 15 finfish stocks
- Snapper
- Crayfish
- Cockles
- Ecosystem indicators
- Degree of benthic disturbance

##### **Contaminants**

- Sediment quality
- River nutrient loads
- Coastal water quality
- Bathing beach quality
- Litter

##### **Sediment**

- Mangroves
- Coastal TSS
- Sediment texture

**Introduced species, harmful algae, pathogens and mass mortalities**

**Biodiversity**

- Native forest cover
- Pest free islands
- Translocations of endangered species
- Shorebirds
- Seabirds

**Whale strikes**

Reported strike fatalities

**Coastal development**

Change in coastal population and dwellings

Change in extent of built-up areas (LCDB)

NOTE: Information is to be sourced by the provider, directly from the responsible management agencies. The Hauraki Gulf Forum Technical Officer Group will facilitate contact with relevant agency staff.

Part 2: Responsiveness

- 5) Consider 'strategic issues' arising from the analysis and identify whether any reprioritisation is required given the scale, intensity and potential impact of those issues. Identify any gaps and key research questions arising from the analysis (and review with peers).
- 6) With reference to the strategic issues, consider progress towards integrated management, and achieving the objectives of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act and the vision statement of the HGF. The purpose of this section is to set out if changes to the policy and regulatory settings have had any impact (positive or negative) on these matters, and if possible, to identify potential actions that could accelerate progress toward achieving the desired outcomes.
- 7) Present the above analysis in engaging editorial and graphical ways. Relevant maps, tables, graphics and photos to be provided with final report, ready for design and print.

**Milestones**

- Identify and collate indicator information from agencies – from Apr 2017
- Initial report by Sept 2017, for technical officer and peer review.
- Draft report for approval by Forum on 20 Nov 2017
- Final report by Dec 2017

(Circulated and discussed at March 16 Technical Officers Group meeting)