

Auckland Council

Hauraki Gulf Forum
Strategic Issue

Knowledge generation
within an eco-system
based framework

Research and Evaluation

Seabird Plastics Screening

International collaboration with CSIRO Australia and RIMU (Todd Landers) is being developed to screen seabirds (with a focus on the Hauraki Gulf) for plastic ingestion using a modern, non-invasive preen gland sampling methodology. The aim of this work is to better understand the potential extent and negative effects plastics are having on seabirds in the Auckland region and afar, with plans to sample a wide variety of seabird species on both coasts of Auckland. Currently there is very little seabird plastic ingestion data for Auckland (and for most of New Zealand); however, recent modelling work has identified the Tasman Sea as potentially one of the worst areas for animal plastic ingestion in the world.

Auckland Unitary Plan

The regional coastal plan component of the Unitary Plan was sent to the Minister of Conservation for approval on 14 July 2017. Once the Minister's approval is received, the council will publish a public notice stating when the regional coastal plan will be operative in part.

The regional coastal plan provisions were subject to three high Court appeals. Those appeals have now been largely resolved. The plan provisions still subject to appeal relate to outstanding natural landscapes and genetically modified organisms.

Consideration of SeaChange marine spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf

The Planning Committee considered on 2 May 2017 a high level evaluation of the marine spatial plan carried out by a cross-council evaluation group of senior Auckland Council staff. This was necessary to assess the plan's direction within a broader range of council and other initiatives. The Planning Committee acknowledged the shared vision and intent of the marine spatial plan with Auckland Council's goals, which both seek to improve the health of the Hauraki Gulf. The Planning Committee directed the Auckland Council group to assess the implications of the plan, including the extent to which existing and proposed work programmes would deliver on the outcomes envisaged by Auckland Council and its statutory responsibilities.

Given the extensive work required to undertake this analysis, four council staff workshops on some of the main themes in the plan were held in July. This further analysis is enabling work programme options to be identified by departments and council controlled organisations for potential consideration in the forthcoming Long Term Plan 2018-28, and/or through other avenues of activity. A provisional Auckland Council political reference group met on 2 August 2017 to provide oversight on the staff work being done to integrate inputs from various departments and council controlled organisations, preceding a scheduled report to the Environment and Community Committee meeting on 12 September 2017.

Auckland Council (Natural Environment Strategy) funded the printing of the SeaChange document entitled 'An Introduction and Overview', to complement the production work on this document undertaken by Waikato Regional Council staff in preceding months. This work was completed in June 2017.

Key Coastal Projects and Operational Matters

Orewa Beach

The hearing for the resource consent application lodged by Auckland Council for a 600m long rock revetment, to protect esplanade reserve along the mid beach, is to be held in the week beginning 7 August.

Marine Biosecurity

Seeking support and endorsement from Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) for the proposed Inter-Regional Marine Pathway Management Plan for the Upper North Island; a Top of the North marine biosecurity partnership initiative of which AC is leading. If supported by UNISA Biosecurity can present at the next HGF meeting.

AC submission on the National Environment Standard: Marine Aquaculture presented and endorsed by Planning Committee. Have been consulting with MPI and other regions are following our steps. Story in relation to the submission [here](#).

Advocacy & awareness programme continues. Australian droplet tunicate (*Eudistoma elongatum*) campaign planned for spring targeting the infested areas: Waiheke, Mahurangi and Sandspit. Preparing for the Auckland on water boat show Top of the North marine biosecurity stand 28 September to 2 October. Collaborative Top of the North marine biosecurity umbrella messaging/marketing workpiece complete. New logo and catch-phrase "Clean below? Good to go". Upgrade of current marinepests.nz webpage and collateral to follow.

Auckland Council

AC Hull Surveillance programme complete – data analysis pending. Great Barrier Island Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella*) incursion site monitoring planned for end of August, and surveillance over summer.

Increased number of reported incidents of boats turning up in other regions with marine pests and/or heavy biofouling on the vessel hull. List of Haul-out and hardstand providers developed into a directory. Other regions to follow suit to compile an easily accessible resource.

Supporting Cawthron Institute in their Pest-free ports and marinas project, with bubble technology trials planned for summer. Also assisting in their *Sabella* impacts research to begin in Westhaven marina mid August.