



Hauraki Gulf Forum

Tikapa Moana

Te Moananui-ā-Toi

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Hauraki Gulf Forum will be held on:

Date: Monday, 19 May 2025
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Reception Lounge
Venue: Level 2, Auckland Town Hall
301 Queen Street
Auckland

Hauraki Gulf Forum

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Co-chairperson	Cr Warren Maher	Waikato Regional Council
Co-chairperson	Ms Nicola Rata-MacDonald,	Tangata Whenua
Tangata Whenua	MNZM	
Members	Mayor Toby Adams	Hauraki District Council
	Ms Charmaine Bailie	Tangata Whenua
	Mr Joe Davis	Tangata Whenua
	Cr Christine Fletcher, QSO	Auckland Council
	Mr Terrence Hohneck	Tangata Whenua
	Mr Jacob Hore	Ministry for Primary Industries
	Mr Tom Irvine	Tangata Whenua
	Cr Mike Lee	Auckland Council
	Cr Kerrin Leoni	Auckland Council
	Mr Martin Mariassouce	Te Puni Kōkiri
	Cr Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu	Waikato District Council
	Mr Dean Ogilvie	Tangata Whenua
	Mr Chris Ollivier	Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board (Auckland Council)
	Ms Bianca Ranson	Waiheke Local Board (Auckland Council)
	Mr Alex Rogers	Department of Conservation
	Cr James Sainsbury	Matamata-Piako District Council
	Mayor Len Salt	Thames-Coromandel District Council
	Cr Wayne Walker	Auckland Council
	Cr John Watson	Auckland Council

(Quorum 11 members)

Mike Giddey
Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere / Governance
Advisor

8 May 2025

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Note: The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

Selected extracts from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) integrate the management of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (b) establish the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park:
- (c) establish objectives for the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (d) recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf and its islands:
- (e) establish the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Part 1 Management of Hauraki Gulf

7 Recognition of national significance of Hauraki Gulf

- (1) The interrelationship between the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments and the ability of that interrelationship to sustain the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands are matters of national significance.
- (2) The life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Gulf and its islands includes the capacity—
 - (a) to provide for—
 - (i) the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua of the Gulf with the Gulf and its islands; and
 - (ii) the social, economic, recreational, and cultural well-being of people and communities:
 - (b) to use the resources of the Gulf by the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand for economic activities and recreation:
 - (c) to maintain the soil, air, water, and ecosystems of the Gulf.

8 Management of Hauraki Gulf

To recognise the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, the objectives of the management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments are—

- (a) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the life-supporting capacity of the environment of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (b) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
- (c) the protection and, where appropriate, the enhancement of those natural, historic, and physical resources (including kaimoana) of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments with which tangata whenua have an historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship:
- (d) the protection of the cultural and historic associations of people and communities in and around the Hauraki Gulf with its natural, historic, and physical resources:
- (e) the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the contribution of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments to the social and economic well-being of the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand:

- (f) the maintenance and, where appropriate, the enhancement of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, which contribute to the recreation and enjoyment of the Hauraki Gulf for the people and communities of the Hauraki Gulf and New Zealand.

Part 2 Hauraki Gulf Forum

15 Purposes of Forum

The Forum has the following purposes:

- (a) to integrate the management and, where appropriate, to promote the conservation and management in a sustainable manner, of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand:
- (b) to facilitate communication, co-operation, and co-ordination on matters relating to the statutory functions of the constituent parties in relation to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, and the Forum:
- (c) to recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and, where appropriate, its catchments.

16 Establishment of Forum

- (1) A body called the Hauraki Gulf Forum is established.
- (2) The Forum consists of the following representatives:
 - (a) 1 representative appointed by the Minister:
 - (b) 1 representative appointed by the Minister of Fisheries:
 - (c) 1 representative appointed by the Minister of Maori Affairs:
 - (ca) 7 representatives appointed by the Auckland Council:
 - (d) 1 representative appointed by each of the following local authorities:
 - ...(iv) Hauraki District Council:
 - ...(vi) Matamata-Piako District Council:
 - ...(ix) Thames-Coromandel District Council:
 - ...(x) Waikato District Council:
 - ...(xi) Waikato Regional Council:
 - (e) 6 representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the tangata whenua and the Minister of Maori Affairs.
- (2A) The representatives appointed in accordance with subsection (2)(ca) must—
 - (a) be members of—
 - (i) the Auckland Council; or
 - (ii) a local board of the Auckland Council elected in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001; and
 - (b) include 1 member of each of the Great Barrier Island and Waiheke Island local boards.
- (3) The representatives appointed in accordance with subsection (2)(d) or (5) must be members of the local authority elected in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001.

17 Functions of Forum

- (1) To promote sections 7 and 8, the Forum has the following functions in relation to the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
 - (a) to prepare a list of strategic issues, determine a priority for action on each issue, and regularly review that list:
 - (b) to facilitate and encourage co-ordinated financial planning, where possible, by the constituent parties:
 - (c) to obtain, share, and monitor information on the state of the natural and physical resources:
 - (d) to receive reports on the completion and implementation of deeds of recognition:
 - (e) to require and receive reports from constituent parties on the development and implementation of policies and strategies to address the issues identified under paragraph (a):
 - (f) to receive reports from the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf on the development and implementation of iwi management or development plans:
 - (g) to prepare and publish, once every 3 years, a report on the state of the environment in the Hauraki Gulf, including information on progress towards integrated management and responses to the issues identified in accordance with paragraph (a):
 - (h) to promote and advocate the integrated management and, where appropriate, the sustainable management of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments:
 - (i) to encourage, share, co-ordinate where appropriate, and disseminate educational and promotional material:
 - (j) to liaise with, and receive reports from, persons and groups having an interest in the Hauraki Gulf and business and community interests to promote an interest in the purposes of the Forum:
 - (k) to commission research into matters relating to the functions of the Forum.
- (2) When carrying out its functions under subsection (1), the Forum must have particular regard to the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments.

18 Powers of Forum

- (1) The Forum has the powers that are reasonably necessary to carry out its functions.
- (2) The Forum's powers include the powers—
 - (a) to consider issues related to its purpose; and
 - (b) to receive reports from constituent parties; and
 - (c) to make recommendations to constituent parties; and
 - (d) to advise any person who requests the Forum's advice; and
 - (e) to commission or undertake those activities that are necessary to achieve its purpose.
- (3) The Forum must not—
 - (a) appear before a court or tribunal other than as a witness if called by a party to proceedings; or
 - (b) take part in a decision-making process under any enactment other than to advise when requested to do so.

Governance Statement – updated May 2021

Whakatauki

“He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.”

A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow. In unity there is strength.” In the highly developed craft of building ocean going waka the bow section was laced to the centre hull. The waka provides a metaphor for tangata whenua, in that a people interlaced will not be separated and through that unity we find strength.

This Governance Statement replaces all prior versions. It covers how the Forum works, and key roles and responsibilities. The Forum’s purposes, membership, functions and powers are set out in detail in Part 2 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA) and are not repeated here.

How the Forum works

Te whakahonore i o maatau hononga Tiriti hei painga mo Te Moananui-ō-Toi; Tīkapa Moana; Hauraki Gulf. The Forum will operate in partnership under the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, including the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under Section 6.

It will integrate and respect both Te Ao Māori and other world views.

The Forum’s conduct, and all those that interact with it, will adhere to the intent of the following principles:

- Aroha: being considerate – having respect for relationships and being of service.
- Openness and impartiality: having an open mind when making decisions and listening to other points of view.
- Tautoko: supporting others by respecting and upholding others mana, dignity, identity and unique perspective.
- Manaaki: caring for others by responsibly valuing others and ensuring they feel valued.
- Stewardship: using powers and resources prudently.
- Awhi: helping others by entering into effective engagements in the spirit of co-operation and good faith.
- Leadership: inspiring action toward achieving common goals.
- Tika: being responsible – doing the right thing with integrity and accountability.
- Pono: being effective – building credibility.
- Ethics: maintaining the highest standard of ethical conduct.

The Forum will endeavour to meet quarterly, with meetings split between the Auckland and Waikato regions. It will hold additional workshops and meetings as required.

Our Roles and Responsibilities

- Co-Chairs
 - One Co-Chair is from and elected by the membership at large
 - One Co-Chair is from and decided by the Tangata Whenua members
 - Co-Chairs lead the Forum and are its spokespeople
 - Co-Chairs work in partnership with each other
 - Co-Chairs exemplify the principles by which we work
 - Co-Chairs chair Forum meetings, set strategic direction, support and work with all Members, and front public engagement
- (A separate Co-Chairing arrangement records the practical aspects of Co-Chairing)

- Members
 - Members support and work with the Co-Chairs and each other to take effective decisions and progress the agenda of the Forum
 - Members bring their expertise and mana to ensure quality decision making in the interests of the Marine Park
 - Members represent their Constituent Party, as defined under the HGMPA
 - Members may send alternates to meetings they are unable to attend so long as this is notified in advance and in accordance with any applicable practice

- Executive Officer
 - The Executive Officer functions as the Chief Executive of the Forum and is responsible for taking forward resolutions of the Forum, ensuring adherence to the HGMPA, supporting the Co-Chairs and all Members, preparing meeting papers, coordination with external partners, and the Forum's management, contracts, finance and administration.
 - The Executive Officer chairs meetings of Technical Officers and works closely with the Governance Advisor.

- Governance Advisor
 - The Governance Advisor is responsible for collating and publishing meeting agendas, writing minutes and providing advice on process.

- Technical Officers
 - Members are encouraged to have technical officers to provide them and the Forum with expert support and advice.
 - Technical Officers will work with their Members, the Executive Officer and each other to progress the Forum's resolutions, as appropriate.

- Administering Authority
 - Auckland Council is the Administering Authority (for responsibilities see s28, HGMPA)

Review

This Governance Statement will be reviewed every 3 years.

Karakia

Mihi Whakatau

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Karakia

1 Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) whakaū / confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on [Monday, 3 March 2025](#), as a true and correct record.

4 Public Forum

4.1 Public Forum - Kekeno / Fur Seal Mortalities Report - 2024

Te take mō te pūrongo **Purpose of the report**

1. Shaun Lee will present to the forum on the Kekeno / Fur Seal Mortalities Report – 2024 which is Attachment C to the Executive Officers' Report.

Ngā tūhonga **Recommendation/s**

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) thank Shaun Lee for his presentation on the Kekeno / Fur Seal Mortalities Report – 2024.

4.2 Public Forum - Tau Ngaruhe – Ngāti Pāoa Kaitiaki

Te take mō te pūrongo **Purpose of the report**

1. Tau Ngaruhe will present to the forum on the following matters:
 - Te Rakau e nga Maramarua, - Updating Maramarua natives
 - Ko te Mahi o te tiaki tuna
 - An introduction to Capacity building kaitiaki via the Larseair Program Called: MANA O TE KAITIAKI

Ngā tūhonga **Recommendation/s**

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) thank Tau Ngaruhe for his presentation.

5 Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

Co-Chairpersons' Report

File No.: CP2025/04340

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To provide a report from the Co-Chairpersons of the Hauraki Gulf Forum (HGF).

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The year marks 25 years since the establishment of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and, with it, the formation of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. We will take a moment to acknowledge this significant milestone at our upcoming Forum meeting.
3. We formally acknowledge and thank current and past Forum members for their service and dedication to the Gulf. We mihi to our Tangata Whenua members, whose sustained presence and guidance reflect deep whakapapa ties, enduring kaitiaki responsibilities, and a profound commitment to the mauri of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi.
4. We also recognise Sandra Lee, who as Minister of Conservation at the time, was instrumental in ushering in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act. We acknowledge the leadership of former Chairs including Laly Haddon, John Tregidga, Liane Ngamane, John Meeuwesen, Moana Tamaariki-Pohe, and Pippa Coom, as well as the contributions of our former Executive Officers Tim Higham, Alex Rogers and Lucy Baragwanath.
5. Over the past 25 years, public awareness and visibility of the issues facing the Hauraki Gulf have grown markedly. While we are not yet on a full path to recovery and many pressures remain complex and persistent – especially as climate change accelerates – there have been many successes worth recognising. The Forum's role in advocacy and raising the profile of the Gulf should be both acknowledged and commended.
6. We offer our sincere thanks to our current Forum members for their continued commitment.
7. At the time of writing, we await the final reading of the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill. We continue to advocate for the passage of the Bill in the form recommended by the Select Committee and look forward to celebrating this milestone with Forum members and Gulf communities. We remain in close contact with the Department of Conservation on the Bill's progress.

Executive support

8. Since our last hui, we received Dr Lucy Baragwanath's resignation. Lucy finished on 4 April and has moved to the role of Science Group Manager – Restoring Ecosystems and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.
9. With Lucy's departure, we have worked with Samantha Hill (General Manager Environmental Services) at Auckland Council to establish interim arrangements to maintain Forum operations while we work towards a permanent appointment.
10. Our immediate priorities include the successful delivery of the May and August Forum meetings, preparation of the Annual Report, coordination of the 2026 State of the Gulf Report, and continuing our public relations and communications work.
11. To help coordinate these efforts, we have engaged Katina Conomos, who has previously served as Interim Executive Officer on two occasions, to support the Forum in a part-time capacity. Katina brings a deep understanding of the Forum's work programme, governance, and strategic context, and will act as the primary liaison between the Co-Chairs, Forum members, and Technical Officers.

12. We have also asked member agencies to contribute additional support, particularly through the Forum's Technical Officers. We thank Joao Paulo Silva from Waikato Regional Council for agreeing to support the delivery of the May and August Forum meetings. We also acknowledge the support being made available by Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust Tangata Whenua technical advisors, Ataria MacDonald and Delma O'Kane, to assist the Acting EO and interim team.
13. We extend our appreciation to Samantha Hill for her work in helping establish interim arrangements and acknowledge the consistent support of our Governance Advisor, Mike Giddey.
14. We are confident this interim support model will ensure continuity of operations while providing time to consider a long-term staffing solution.
15. In the coming months, we will oversee two foundational pieces of work: a review of the Forum's Governance Statement and the Service Level Agreement with Auckland Council, which will be brought forward to the Forum's next meeting in June. These will be essential to strengthening future executive support.

Fisheries Reform and Marine Biosecurity

16. We acknowledge the recent decision regarding CRA2 (spiny rock lobster), which represents a positive step toward more sustainable fisheries management in the Gulf. We welcome this as a signal of the direction we hope to see reflected more broadly in future fisheries policy.
17. The Forum was invited to submit feedback on the Government's proposed fisheries reforms. In our submission, we expressed concern that some proposed changes may weaken sustainability safeguards and accountability. We advocated for a precautionary, science-based approach that upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supports the ecological integrity of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi. (Refer to Attachment A).
18. We remain concerned about the limited progress in tackling the spread of exotic caulerpa. We await Budget 2025 to understand the Government's commitment to marine biosecurity investment, particularly in response to this growing threat. We also await outcomes from recent removal trials.
19. Addressing these challenges will require collective resolve. Every member of the Forum, partner agency, and Gulf community has a role to play in protecting and restoring the mauri of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) receive the report.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Submission on Fisheries Reform and Marine Biosecurity	15

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Nicola Rata-MacDonald, MNZM and Cr Warren Maher
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Fisheries New Zealand
by email: FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Fisheries Reform

*He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.
A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow. In unity there is strength.*

22 April 2025

Tēnā koe,

The Hauraki Gulf Forum welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals to amend the Fisheries Act 1996.

The Forum is a statutory governance body established under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, bringing together tangata whenua, local government, and Crown representatives to promote the integrated management and protection of Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / the Hauraki Gulf. Our legislative purpose includes protecting and enhancing the life-supporting capacity and ecological systems of the Gulf for current and future generations, and advocating for the sustainable management of the Gulf.

From this standpoint, we are concerned that the proposed amendments to the Act could increase the risk of harm to ecosystem function and resilience. In parts, the reforms appear to shift emphasis away from established principles of transparency, and accountability, and risk weakening the very tools needed to respond effectively to ecological decline in the Gulf and beyond.

We highlight the following overarching positions:

- **Ecological integrity must be the cornerstone** of fisheries management. Legislative reform should strengthen, not weaken, protections for depleted stocks and vulnerable species. The role of the Minister in ensuring sustainability must be upheld and reinforced, not diminished.
- **The statutory duty to act in the face of ecological decline must be retained.** Replacing the current requirement for the Minister to reduce the Total Allowable Catch when a stock falls below the soft limit with a discretionary approach would weaken the precautionary, science-based foundations of sustainable fisheries management. Declining fish stocks are not isolated issues. They reflect broader ecological stress, as consistently observed in the Hauraki Gulf. Deferring action in the face of this evidence risks compounding long-term harm to ecosystem health.
- **Transparency, accountability, and independent data are fundamental to public confidence and effective fisheries management.** This includes the continuation and strengthening of on-board camera requirements and robust, independent monitoring.



- **Voluntary or non-regulatory measures may complement statutory protections but cannot replace them.** A precautionary, regulated approach is essential to rebuild trust, restore abundance, and address the cumulative impacts facing the Hauraki Gulf.
- **Any reforms must uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and empower kaitiakitanga.** The legislative framework must enable Māori to exercise their roles as kaitiaki, uphold the integrity of rāhui and customary practices, and support iwi- and hapū-led initiatives that restore and sustain the mauri of the moana.

We urge the Ministry to ensure that all reforms are consistent with the broader direction of the *Revitalising the Gulf* strategy and other commitments to restore the ecological integrity of Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

Nāku iti noa, nā,



Nicola MacDonald
Co-Chair Tangata Whenua
Hauraki Gulf Forum



Warren Maher
Co-Chair
Hauraki Gulf Forum

Overview of resource management reforms

File No.: CP2025/08703

Item 7

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To provide an overview of the government's national direction programme and Phase Three resource management reforms.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The government is part way through a programme of comprehensive reform of the resource management system. Phase Two is underway and includes the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill, which is currently before the Environment Select Committee. Phase Two included changes to national direction. The government has refocused its national direction programme. Further consultation on the refocused package of changes to national direction is expected in mid-2025.
3. The government has also announced further details of the new legislation that will be introduced to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Phase Three is expected to significantly alter the planning framework by replacing the RMA with two new bills, based on "the enjoyment of property rights".
4. In September 2024, the government established an Expert Advisory Group (EAG), which developed a blueprint for reform based on ten principles set by the government.
5. Cabinet has now agreed that the EAG Blueprint delivers a workable basis for a new planning system and has made in-principle decisions on a range of new features for the system. These include two new acts:
 - the Planning Act will be focused on regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land
 - the Natural Environment Act will be focused on the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
6. The EAG's recommendations represent a significant shift in planning and environmental management decision-making at the national level. The new legislation will narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls. It signals a more permissive approach, which is intended to unlock development, streamline processes and meet the government's economic growth, housing, infrastructure, primary industries, environment and climate change objectives.
7. Under the new resource management system, Auckland Council would as a unitary authority:
 - a) continue to be the primary decision-maker developing the spatial plan, the natural environment plan and combined regulatory plan, drawing on the views of local communities
 - b) have a reduced role in policy and plan development because of the increased use of national policy direction, national standards, nationally standardised land use zones and nationally set environmental limits
 - c) remain the primary regulator, albeit within a set of nationally developed tools.
8. The reduction in the number of consents required is expected to reduce consenting workloads. Councils may have a reduced role in compliance, monitoring and enforcement as responsibility is transferred to a national compliance and enforcement regulator in the long term.

9. The bills are expected to be introduced in late 2025, with consultation through the select committee process. The new bills are expected to be enacted mid-2026.

Horopaki Context

10. The government is part way through a programme of comprehensive reform of the resource management system. Phase One (which involved repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 and the Spatial Planning Act 2023) is complete. Phase Two is underway and includes the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill. The bill is currently before the Environment Select Committee, which is due to report back to Parliament on 17 June 2025. Further consultation on a package of changes to national direction was also expected as part of Phase Two.

Phase Two: National direction

11. The Phase Two national direction programme included amendments to 14 existing instruments and the development of seven new instruments, many with substantial implementation requirements for local government through RMA plans. Since then, the government has decided to refocus the programme to deliver on the government's priorities while minimising disruption to the resource management system.
12. Cabinet reconfirmed the scope of Phase Two national direction proposals on 24 March 2025. These proposals are intended to have immediate effect under the RMA, while the new resource management system is developed and implemented.
13. Subject to further Cabinet decisions, the government will consult on targeted changes to national direction in mid-2025, with a view to them being in place by the end of the year (Attachment 1). The policy intent of the refocused Phase Two proposals is intended to flow through into the new resource management system.
14. The Minister recently announced Pillar One of the Going for Housing Growth programme, which aims to free up land for development and remove unnecessary planning barriers. The Minister recognises that if implemented straight away, councils would be forced to conduct expensive and lengthy plan changes, only to start all over again a year later once the new legislation comes into effect. The Minister has therefore decided that the changes will be implemented as part of the replacement legislation. This means that the proposed growth targets will be considered in the context of nationally standardised land use zones (NSZ) and spatial planning. An urban development and housing policy package will be consulted on in May 2025, including how it will transition into Phase Three.
15. Consultation on other Phase Two national direction proposals is expected subsequently.

Phase Three: Replacement of the RMA

16. The government announced further details of the new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Phase Three is expected to significantly alter the planning framework by replacing the RMA with two new bills, based on "the enjoyment of property rights".
17. Last August, the government agreed ten design principles to guide reform. The government appointed an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) in September 2024 to test and refine the principles and develop a blueprint for replacing the RMA. The government released the EAG report on 24 March 2025, which can be found here: [Report from the Expert Advisory Group on Resource Management Reform | Ministry for the Environment](#). The report provides further detail on the proposed reform and transition arrangements.

18. The government has endorsed the EAG’s recommendation to introduce two new Acts:
- a Planning Act to establish a framework for planning and regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land. The Act will enable urban development and infrastructure (including renewable energy) and cover natural hazard management.
 - a Natural Environment Act (NEA) to establish a framework for the use, protection and enhancement the natural environment. The NEA will address impacts on freshwater, indigenous biodiversity, landscapes, and the relationship of Māori and their culture with natural resources.
19. The EAG recommended that each Act contain national goals setting out the main objectives of the regulatory framework, to provide a basis for monitoring implementation. Decisions on the value of including goals and decision-making principles will be made under delegation to the Minister. Figure 1 sets out the main mechanisms for decision-making under the Planning Act and NEA.

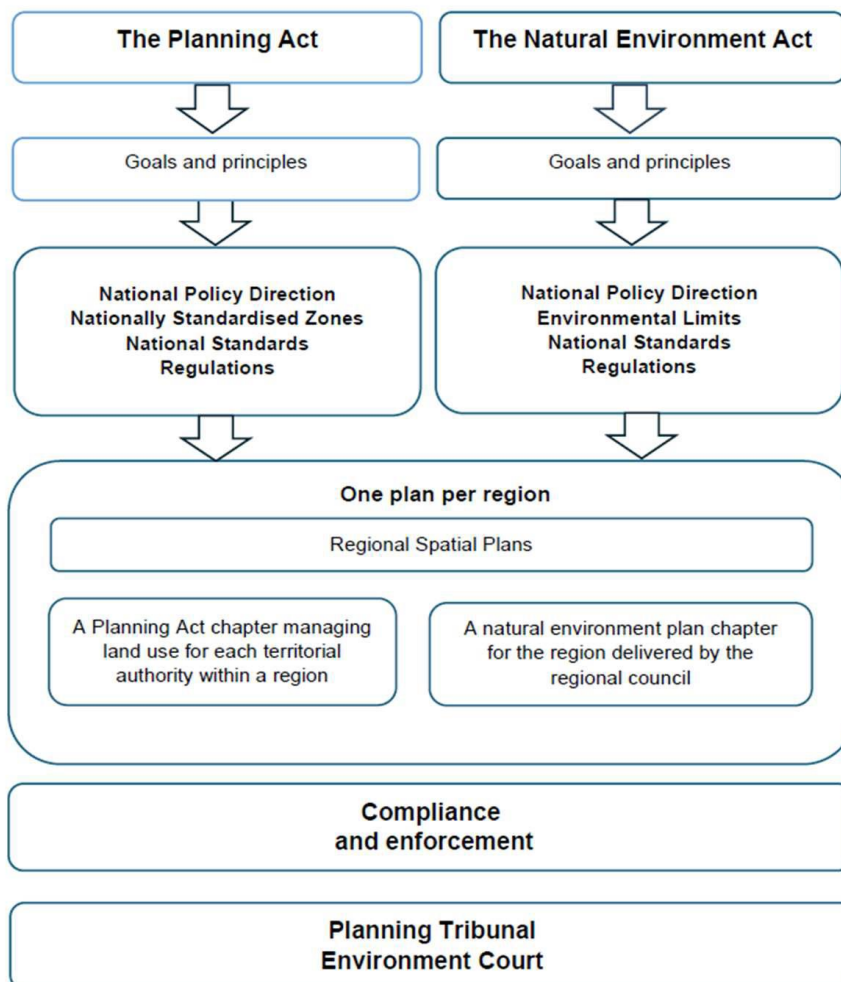


Figure 1. Main mechanisms for decision making under the Planning Act and NEA

20. The EAG’s recommendations represent a significant shift of planning and environmental management decision-making to the national level. The new legislation will narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls. It represents a shift from a precautionary to a more permissive approach, which is intended to unlock development, streamline processes and meet the government’s objectives.

21. As a unitary authority, Auckland Council would continue to be the primary decision-maker in developing a spatial plan, a natural environment plan and a combined regulatory plan, drawing on the views of local communities. Councils would remain the primary regulator, albeit within a set of nationally developed tools. Local authorities are expected to work with neighbouring councils when developing regional spatial plans.
22. The proposals are subject to further detailed policy work before they are developed into legislation. The bills are expected to be introduced in late 2025 and enacted mid-2026.

Discussion

23. The government has signalled a significant change to the planning system on the basis that the current resource management system is not fit for purpose. It is widely held that the current system is not delivering the best outcomes for communities or the environment and is too complex and costly to navigate. The EAG report recommendations represent a fundamental shift towards greater regulatory restraint, efficiency and consistency, with fewer bespoke rules and more reliance on national standards, spatial planning, and outcome-based tools. It also represents a shift in the system towards greater standardisation at the national level.
24. Phase Three is expected to significantly alter the planning framework by replacing the RMA with two new bills. The government has stated that this means that “the resource management system should allow people to do more on their own property more easily, so long as it doesn’t harm others.” Where an activity is harming others, the resource management system should step in to protect property owners’ rights from being compromised by unreasonable activities. The changes are intended to deliver a more enabling resource management system with more certainty, fewer consents that are approved faster, and that is less litigious.
25. The EAG recommendations raise several implications for councils’ work programmes. The government states that the proposals are not intended to change the existing core resource management roles of councils, but rather how these roles are performed. However, proposals to remove matters such as historic heritage from the legislation and the establishment of a new national compliance and enforcement regulator would impact council delivery of these functions.
26. The government has also made it clear that significant changes to existing plans will be required. Councils would be expected to implement Phase Three through the development of new plans, from mid-2027 to inform councils’ 2027 Long-term Plan (LTP) cycle. It should be noted that it is unlikely that the new plans would be in place to inform the 2027 LTP, which is adopted in June 2027.
27. As a unitary council, Auckland Council would retain most of its current ‘regional’ and ‘territorial’ authority plan-making and consenting functions for natural resource management and for managing land use and environmental effects under the RMA. Regional and unitary councils would retain responsibility for setting limits for coastal water and there are potential opportunities to cover Coastal Management Area (CMA) issues in Natural Environment Plans and Regional Spatial Plans.
28. The EAG recommended reducing the extent of the CMA managed by councils (in the order of three nautical miles), with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) responsible for planning and consenting beyond that. However, Cabinet recommended retaining the existing geographical extent of the CMA. The EAG also recommended that the role of the Minister of Conservation for matters relating to the management of the coastal environment be transferred to the Minister for the Environment although Cabinet has yet to decide on this.
29. Councils would have a reduced role in policy and plan development because of the increased use of national policy direction, nationally standardised zones, national environmental standards and nationally determined environmental limits.
30. In the case of Auckland Council, it would lead development and retain decision-making on the regional spatial plan, the natural environment plan, and the combined district plan, albeit within a set of nationally developed tools.

31. The reduction in number of consents required is expected to reduce consenting workloads. Councils may also have a reduced role in compliance, monitoring and enforcement.

Ngā koringa ā-muri

Next steps

32. Government officials will undertake targeted engagement with local government as key implementers of the new system, as well as practitioners and infrastructure, development and other interests. Officials will also work with the relevant Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs) and other relevant groups to ensure any impacts on Treaty settlements and other arrangements, including in relation to the marine and coastal area, are addressed appropriately.
33. The Minister for Housing and Resource Management Reform intends to begin canvassing the government's refocused national direction programme in May 2025 (Attachment A). The Minister will similarly be considering how the urban development and housing package will transition into Phase Three, with a view to new direction being in place by the end of the year. Consultation on all other Phase Two national direction proposals is expected a little later in 2025. This includes targeted amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the Natural Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture.
34. Legislation is expected to be introduced to Parliament later this year and be passed into law by mid-2026. Public consultation on the proposals will occur primarily through the select committee process.
35. The proposed Phase Three changes are expected to be implemented in 2027, and with as little disruption to users of the resource management system as possible. Important elements of the existing system (e.g. plans, national direction, etc.) will transition into the new system, with a "switching off" of elements incompatible with the new system.
36. Subject matter experts across councils will consider the proposals in detail and will present advice for their respective elected members' consideration in due course.

Ngā tūtohunga

Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) receive the overview of the current resource management reforms provided by Auckland Council Policy staff.

Ngā tāpirihanga

Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A ↓	The government's refocused resource management national direction programme	23

Ngā kaihaina

Signatories

Authors	Dave Allen - Manager Natural Environment Strategy Karryn Kirk - Principal Strategic Advisor
Authoriser	Samantha Hill - General Manager Environmental Services

Attachment A: The government’s refocused resource management national direction programme

Rescoped Phase Two package	Instruments being developed / amended
Freshwater Package	<p>Changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) to rebalance te Mana o te Wai and enable commercial vegetable growing and water storage.</p> <p>Includes drinking water proposals and changes to the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F), and Stock Exclusion regulations.</p>
National Environmental Standards (NES) proposals Progress NESs as they have immediate effect on consenting	<p>NES-Granny Flats</p> <p>NES-Electricity Transmission Activities (included electric vehicle charging)</p> <p>NES-Telecommunications Facilities</p> <p>NES-Marine Aquaculture</p> <p>NES-Commercial Forestry</p> <p>NES-Papakāinga</p>
National Policy Statement (NPS) proposals Progress policy proposals that can influence consenting processes immediately	<p>More enabling policies / objectives in the NPS Infrastructure, NPS Renewable Electricity Generation, and NPS-Electricity Transmission</p> <p>More enabling policies in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS)</p> <p>Quarrying and mining consistency changes across NPS Freshwater Management, NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity and NPS-Highly Productive Land</p> <p>Remove Land Use Capability (LUC) class 3 from the definition of highly productive land with consultation on ‘special agricultural zones’ (e.g. Pukekohe and Horizons)</p> <p>Scaled back national direction on managing natural hazard risk</p>
Urban Development Consult on an urban development and housing policy package including how it will transition into Phase Three	<p>The Government has announced several intended changes to the NPS Urban Development. These proposals would look quite different in the new system and would require plan changes to implement under the RMA.</p> <p>The government will consult on an urban development and housing policy package and how it will port into the new system. Phase Three presents opportunities to go further than the NPS-Urban Development, including through standardised zones and spatial planning.</p> <p>Remaining new policy on papakāinga, historic heritage, other highly productive land proposals, indigenous biodiversity and effects management hierarchy proposals for electricity, infrastructure and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement will not be progressed under the RMA and will be incorporated into Phase Three.</p>

Constituent Party Reports

File No.: CP2025/04334

Item 8

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To update the Hauraki Gulf Forum (HGF) on key developments among its Constituent Parties.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. The HGF has received a joint written briefing from the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) (Attachment A).
3. John Walsh from Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) will present an update on the response to exotic Caulerpa.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) thank the Department of Conservation and Fisheries NZ for their written reports
- b) thank John Walsh for the presentation.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	DOC and FNZ constituent party report 19 May 2025	27

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Joao Paulo (JP) Silva, Senior Policy Advisor, Waikato Regional Council Katina Conomos, Programme Director, Revive Our Gulf
Authoriser	Samantha Hill - General Manager Environmental Services

Hauraki Gulf Forum: Revitalising the Gulf update

Released in 2021, *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan*, is the Government's strategy in response to the call for action made by the Sea Change Plan. The strategy provides a roadmap for delivering fisheries management and marine conservation actions to address the decline in mauri and health of the Gulf. More information on each of the workstreams and the broader *Revitalising the Gulf* strategy can be found here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/sea-change/revitalising-the-gulf.pdf>

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) are the leading agencies and have been working to implement the actions contained in the strategy.

Department of Conservation workstreams

New marine protected areas legislation

- DOC leads the marine protection package that will increase protection in the Hauraki Gulf from just over 6 per cent to about 18 per cent and includes 12 new high protection areas, 5 new seafloor protection areas, and extensions to the Cape Rodney – Okakari Point and Whanganui-A-Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserves.
- The Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill (the Bill) was introduced to the House and had its first reading in August 2023.
- The Second Reading of the Bill was completed on 18 December 2024.
- The Committee of the Whole House and Third Reading are expected to happen in June 2025, but this may change. The Committee of the Whole House is when the proposed provision for limited ring net fishing in two high protection areas will be voted on.
- A verbal update on the Bill will be provided at the meeting.

Surveying, monitoring and reporting

- DOC has no substantive update on these workstreams since we last reported in February 2025.
- These workstreams include:
 - Baseline inventory surveys of the proposed new marine protected areas including surveys of coastal and deep reef fish, scallops, rocky reef and soft sediment habitats and communities, and a repeat lobster survey at select High Protection Areas.
 - Development of Active Restoration Ecological Guidance.
 - Development of an overarching Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Revitalising the Gulf Strategy (in conjunction with MPI), and a prioritised Research Plan to support the monitoring.

Marine operations team

- The Marine District, a new DOC operational team focused on Tīkapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi, is being brought together in anticipation of the Bill being passed. Marine Reserve staff (existing) have been brought into the new team. Further staff are being recruited into the team.
- LINZ are currently approving survey plans for the new protected areas.
- Approximately 180 compliance signs will be updated from Tauranga to Whangarei and the Hauraki Gulf islands. These designs are currently being finalised. We have reached out to iwi to discuss the sign design.
- Online apps including Garmin, Marinemate and fishing apps will be updated with new maps.
- DOC's webpages for each HPA/SPA have been drafted and will be ready to go live.
- Collateral including brochures, giveaways, posters are designed and near to print.
- Events are being discussed.
- The team will be at the Auckland Hutchwilco Boat Show 15-18 May sharing advocacy messaging.
- Webinars are being designed for DOC and MPI staff to upskill warranted officers.

Mana whenua

- DOC recognises that individual iwi and hapū may wish to have hui or further information on various kaupapa – if this is the case please let us know by emailing revitalisingthegulf@doc.govt.nz and we will make that happen.
- Opportunities for participation in biodiversity surveys have been offered to 26 iwi across the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park/ Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi.
- We have also reached out to mana whenua to share the work being undertaken by the Marine District team, including compliance sign design, and updates to the proposed legislation.

Fisheries New Zealand workstreams

- FNZ continues to engage with mana whenua and work with a dedicated Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (HG-FPAG) to implement the management actions set out in the Fisheries Plan through a collaborative annual planning and review process.
- A significant and comprehensive benthic survey of the Gulf was completed August/September 2024 with over 270 video transects recorded across the marine park. FNZ has now contracted additional work to assess the imagery and will use this additional information to improve predictions of habitat and biodiversity distributions. The results of this research project are expected to be available mid 2026.
- The Ministers decision to retain the current catch settings and implement a spatial closure for recreational and commercial spiny rock lobster fishing in the inner Hauraki Gulf between Cape Rodney and Port Jackson ([Review of sustainability measures for fisheries – April 2025 round | NZ Government](#)) came into effect on 1 April 2025. In addition, the minister has directed FNZ to consider further management measures for the Northland spiny rock lobster (CRA 1) and packhorse rock lobster (PHC 1) fisheries under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996, including area closure, seasonal closure, and recreational control options (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-management-measures-for-the-northland-spiny-rock-lobster-fishery-cra-1-to-help-mitigate-urchin-barrens>).
- The first special permit to remove excess kina from identified kina barrens was issued to Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative. Te Kohuroa is a co-led community-based initiative made up of volunteers working with tangata whenua, other organisations and the local community to create positive outcomes for their local coastal marine environment in Te Kohuroa/Mathesons Bay. Te Kohuroa has now completed two Community Restoration days with support from their project partners Experiencing Marine Reserves and Wai Connection. The restoration days were well attended with more than 100 volunteers participating in kina harvesting, citizen science, guided snorkels and river walking activities. The harvested kina was distributed for kai to local iwi and the community, while kina too small to eat were composted.
- In addition, a shallow water benthic habitat survey and urchin removal pilot project has been carried out in the Whāngai Mokopuna Rohe Moana. This project was funded in part by FNZ in 2024 and provides an example of a community-led initiative to survey urchin barrens (using drone imagery and rapid in-water assessment of shallow water benthic habitat) and trial urchin removal using freedivers at two sites along the Tutukaka coast, Northland.
- Reviewing the management of Northern scallop fisheries which are currently closed (SCA1 and SCA CS) continues to be a focus. Following new surveys conducted late 2024, two workshops with a dedicated collaborative scallop advisory group including a range of stakeholders and iwi were held in December 2024 and February 2025. The aim of this collaborative process is to develop a sustainable future manage strategy should the fishery return to an abundance that could support it reopening.

- Engagement and planning for the October 2025 Sustainability Round is underway with iwi and stakeholders. Species of relevance to the Hauraki Gulf that are likely to be reviewed this year include Smooth Skate, English Mackerel, Jack Mackerel, and a range of small pelagic species including anchovy, sprat, garfish and yellow-eyed mullet.

Other updates

Marine reserve application

- In November 2024 DOC provided our advice to the Minister of Conservation to inform his decisions on the Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) marine reserve application from the Friends of the Hauraki Gulf. The Minister's decision is still pending. This standalone application is separate to the Revitalising the Gulf marine protected area proposals discussed above.

Executive Officer Report

File No.: CP2025/04338

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To update Forum members on the status of current workstreams and activities.
2. This report has been prepared by Katina Conomos and Joao Paulo Silva, who are currently partially fulfilling the functions of the Forum's Executive Officer during the interim period. We are honored to support the Forum during this time.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

Activities and correspondence since the last report

3. **Whale Transit Protocol Breach:** On 13 February 2025, the vessel *ASUKA II* transited through the whale protocol area at a speed of 15.3 knots at approximately 6:37 AM, exceeding the voluntary speed limit designed to reduce the risk of ship strikes on whales. Port of Auckland Limited (POAL) advised the shipping line of the breach and notified the Forum on 11 March 2025. (Refer Attachment A).
4. **Fisheries Reform Submission:** The Forum was invited to submit feedback on the Fisheries Reform. A submission was prepared in collaboration with the Co-Chairs and submitted on 22 April. (Refer to Co-Chairs report)
5. **New Marine Species Detection:** On 1 May, Biosecurity New Zealand confirmed the detection of *Acetes sibogae australis*, a tropical shrimp species not previously recorded in Aotearoa, found in Ōkahu Bay, Waitematā. While the species appears locally established, its ability to persist over winter is uncertain. The current biosecurity risk is considered low. (Refer Attachment B).
6. **Central Wharves Masterplan:** Eke Panuku has informed the Forum that Auckland Council is progressing the development of a Central Wharves Masterplan to guide future use of the downtown waterfront. Developed in partnership with Mana Whenua, the project aims to improve the health and mauri of Te Waitematā, revitalise the wharves, separate cruise and ferry operations, and celebrate the cultural and ecological values of the area. More information is available at: <https://www.ekepanuku.co.nz/projects/central-wharves/>
7. A report from Shaun Lee has been received detailing **beach cast kekeno (fur seal)** mortalities, including updated data for 2024. (Refer Attachment C)
8. Forest & Bird with TNZ has released **Endangered Species Aotearoa Season 2**. Episode 1 focuses on endangered species in the Hauraki Gulf and features an interview with Member Ranson, in her role as Forest & Bird's Hauraki Gulf Coordinator. We commend this series to members if you haven't yet had the opportunity to view it. <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/endangered-species-aotearoa/>

Community Funding Grants

9. To date, \$18,148 has been allocated from the Forum's \$50,000 Community Grants Fund to the following projects: Southern Seabirds Trust for Seabird Smart Fishing (\$10,000), Northern NZ Seabird Trust for seabird poster reprinting (\$6,648), and Mountains to Sea for Fish of the Year Competition (\$1,500).
10. Remaining available funds: \$31,852.
11. A new funding application has been received from the Waiheke Marine Project to support a Kōura (crayfish) Dive Survey. It is recommended that the Forum approve a grant of \$9,500 for this initiative. (Refer Attachment D).

12. Following a suggestion from Co-Chair MacDonald, we have approached the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society to explore sponsoring two \$5,000 research grants, focused on research relevant to the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Marine Park. Discussions with NZMSS about the details of the potential arrangement are underway.
13. Forum members are encouraged to continue promoting the Fund and to suggest projects aligned with the Forum's vision for a thriving Hauraki Gulf. Suggestions can be directed to Katina Conomos.

Current priorities and statutory workstreams

14. **Marine Protection Bill:** Preparations are underway for the anticipated passage of the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill. A media statement is in development and will align with the Forum's previously stated advocacy position.
15. **RM Reform:** At the Technical Officers' meeting on 29 April, staff felt that an overview of Resource Management legislative reforms could be provided to Forum members for information purposes. Auckland Council's Dave Allen has kindly agreed to present on this at the next Forum meeting. Summary notes from the Technical Officers meeting are attached (Refer Attachment E).
16. **2026 State of the Gulf Report:** Planning has commenced for the next State of the Gulf report, starting with a scoping process involving the Forum's Technical Officers. Given its release will follow the anticipated passage of the Marine Protection Bill and precede the 2026 general election, the report will be of significant strategic importance.
17. **2024 Annual Report:** The Forum's Annual Report must be tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Conservation by the end of August, in accordance with statutory requirements. Work has commenced and a draft will be brought to the next Forum meeting for consideration.

Upcoming events:

18. **Foil4TheGulf** – 24 May 2025: Hosted by the Black Foils in partnership with Live Ocean, this is expected to be the largest foiling event in the Southern Hemisphere with over 200 participants. Held at Royal Akarana, the event will include advocacy for the Marine Protection Bill through a communications campaign led by Live Ocean. Further details: <https://liveocean.org/foil4thegulf/>
19. The next Gulf Islands Trust hui will be held on 29 May 2025 at the Outboard Boating Club in Auckland, and will feature guest speaker Dr Matt Pinkerton, NIWA Principal Scientist for Marine Ecology, speaking on the topic of ocean warming.
20. Waiheke Marine Project, 5th Annual Kōura/crayfish Survey will be held over 4 weekends between late May and June 2025. Further details: <https://www.waihekemarineproject.org/events/koura-crayfish-survey-2-zw7pa-3th5-93e53>
21. The **Manukau Harbour Symposium** will take place Saturday, 31 May 2025. Details here: <https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2025/04/knowledge-sharing-and-practical-solutions-to-feature-at-love-our-harbour-manukau-harbour-symposium/>

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Hauraki Gulf Forum:

- a) receive the report
- b) note the breach of the ship speed protocol and subsequent action by Port of Auckland Limited
- c) approve the grant of \$9,500 to the Waiheke Marine Project to support the Koura Dive Survey.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Breach of whale protocol ship speed	35
B	Advice from Biosecurity New Zealand re <i>Acetes sibogae australis</i>	37
C	Beach cast Kekenos report	39
D	Request from Waiheke Marine Project to support Koura Dive Survey	41
E	Technical Officers summary notes - 29 April 2025	45

Ngā kaihaina Signatories

Authors	Joao Paulo (JP) Silva, Senior Policy Advisor, Waikato Regional Council Katina Conomos, Programme Director, Revive Our Gulf
Authoriser	Samantha Hill - General Manager Environmental Services

From: [Julie Wagener](#)
To: [Executive Officer](#)
Subject: Fw: ASUKA II - BREACH OF WHALE PROTOCOL SPEED - 13th Feb 2025
Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 11:51:10 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[Outlook-.png](#)
[Outlook-.png](#)
[Outlook-.png](#)

Morning,

Just letting you know that our GM has been following up with vessels who have broken the Hauraki Gulf speed/transit protocols.

Thanks

Julie Wagener
Head of Communications

- ▶ 027 421 6697
- ▶ julie.wagener@poal.co.nz
- ▶ www.poal.co.nz

From: Smith, Nigel <nigel.smith@wilhelmsen.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 11:08 am
To: Allan D'Souza <Allan.D'Souza@poal.co.nz>
Cc: Chris Mills <Chris.Mills@poal.co.nz>; Julie Wagener <Julie.Wagener@poal.co.nz>; Avinash Murthy <Avinash.Murthy@poal.co.nz>; Harbour Control <HarbourControl@poal.co.nz>; Dustin Lakey <Dustin.Lakey@poal.co.nz>
Subject: RE: ASUKA II - BREACH OF WHALE PROTOCOL SPEED - 13th Feb 2025

Hi Allan,

Noted and we will highlight with the vessel for future visits.

Kind Regards

Nigel Smith
Ship Agency Manager New Zealand & Pacific Islands

Mobile +64 21 743900
Phone +64 9 8494783
Email nigel.smith@wilhelmsen.com

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From: Allan D'Souza <Allan.D'Souza@poal.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 3:58 PM
To: Smith, Nigel <nigel.smith@wilhelmsen.com>

Cc: Chris Mills <Chris.Mills@poal.co.nz>; Julie Wagener <Julie.Wagener@poal.co.nz>; Avinash Murthy <Avinash.Murthy@poal.co.nz>; Harbour Control <HarbourControl@poal.co.nz>; Dustin Lakey <Dustin.Lakey@poal.co.nz>

Subject: ASUKA II - BREACH OF WHALE PROTOCOL SPEED - 13th Feb 2025

Caution: This email originated from outside of the **Wilhelmsen Organization**.

Good afternoon Nigel,

Please note as per our records subject vessel transited the whale protocol area at a speed of 15.3knots around 06:37hrs.

Please explain to the master of the vessel that there is a reason for the whale speed restrictions and provide the vessel with the whale area protocols for Auckland.

Also confirm that the master has understood the requirements of the speeds in the whale protocol area.

Cheers
Allan

Allan D'Souza
GM Maritime Services

▶ +64 27 552 2033
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Katina Conomos

From: Giulia Raponi <Giulia.Raponi@mpi.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2025 10:46 am
To: Katina Conomos; Mike.Giddey@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Subject: New to New Zealand shrimp (*Acetes sibogae australis*) in Okahu bay, Auckland

Tēnā kōrua,

I'm an incursion investigator from Biosecurity New Zealand. We are writing you to inform you that MPI was notified in March of an unknown shrimp that a member of the public had collected from Ōkahu Bay, Auckland.

Taxonomists identified the shrimp as *Acetes sibogae australis*. This species is common on the northern east coast of Australia but is new to New Zealand.

A. sibogae australis is mainly a tropical/sub-tropical species; in its native range within Australia, its southern latitude limit is 33° S (Sydney), which is not too dissimilar to Waitematā Harbour (36° S). However, *A. sibogae australis* may not survive or reproduce over winter in the Waitematā Harbour as average winter water temperatures there are 14.6°C compared with 18.6°C in Sydney Harbour.

It is likely the shrimp has become established in Ōkahu Bay since several adult specimens were collected. However, it is uncertain whether the population is capable of persisting over winter. This is the first time *A. sibogae australis* has been detected outside of Australia; hence, there is no information on potential impacts when considering it as a non-indigenous species. The current biosecurity risk is considered low.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Nāku iti nei, nā.
Giulia

Giulia Raponi (MSc) | Senior Adviser & Incursion Investigator (Aquatic)

Biosecurity New Zealand – Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa
Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Ahu Matua | New Zealand
Giulia.Raponi@mpi.govt.nz | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz

To report a suspected exotic disease or pest, please phone the Exotic Disease & Pest Emergency Hotline - 0800 80 99 66

[Leading Biosecurity Surveillance and Investigation to protect Aotearoa](#)



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KEKENO / FUR SEAL MORTALITIES 2024

In the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi

Throughout 2024, I continued investigating the phenomenon of beachcast kekeno, dedicating more search effort.

Because most beachcast kekeno were found in the first two weeks of September in 2021 and 2023 I spent more than seven days seaching beaches during this time and kept my calendar clear to transport dead kekeno to Auckland Zoo for necropsy. Data was gathered from social media, contacts familiar with my research, the citizen science platform iNaturalist.nz, and calls to the Department of Conservation's hotline via the Wildlife Response Squad of which I am a volunteer.

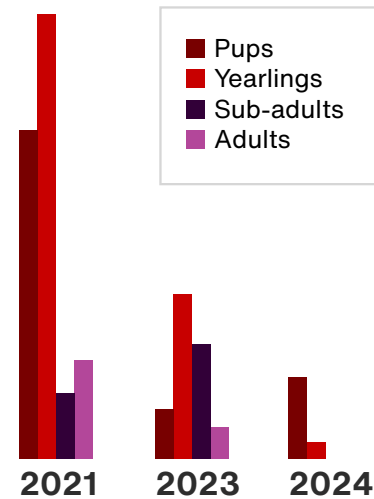
In 2024 I only recorded five instances of beachcast kekeno, alongside one additional case where an injured seal was euthanised by Department of Conservation staff.

The dramatic drop in beachcast kekeno (especially yearlings and sub-adults) in 2024 indicates that there were mass mortality events in 2021 and 2023.

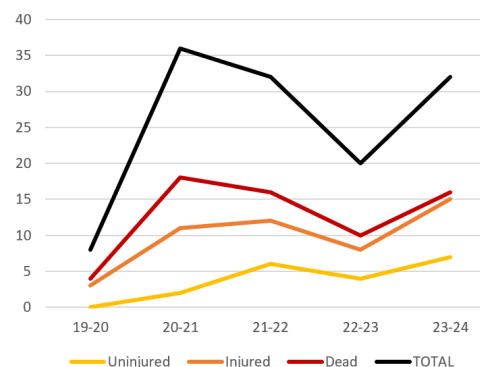
This is inconsistent with the State of Our Gulf 2023. The primary driver(s) of kekeno mortality in the Gulf remains unknown.

Gratitude is extended to the Department of Conservation and the Hauraki Gulf Forum for their support of necropsies to determine causes of death. I am committed to assisting with the transportation of kekeno to Auckland Zoo for necropsies during the initial fortnight of September 2025.

Beachcast kekeno in the Gulf



Kekeno catch reported by commercial fishers and observers in FMA 1



A kekeno died overnight after lying immobile on Kaitoke Beach, Aotea. Photo Jono Childs.



A kekeno pup died after a suspected dog attack, Te Arai Beach.

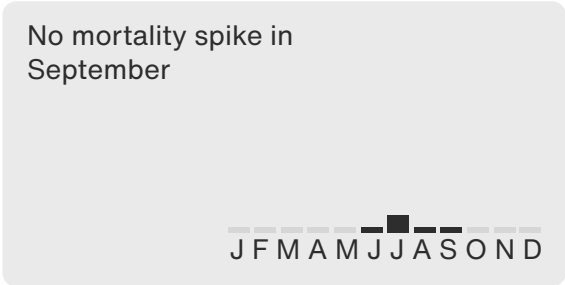
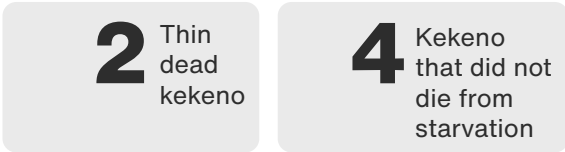


Eleven kekeno were counted around Takangaroa Island, Kawau Bay on the 11th of July. Photo Shaun Lee.

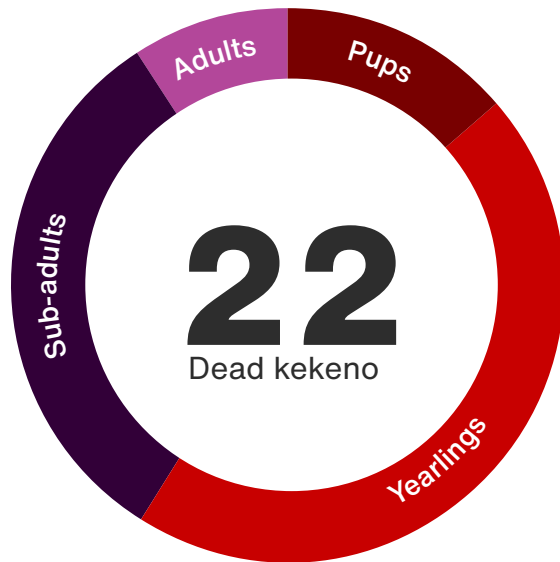
Item 9



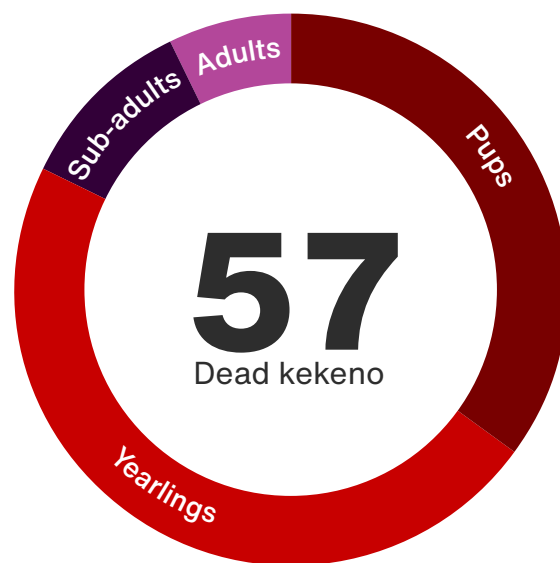
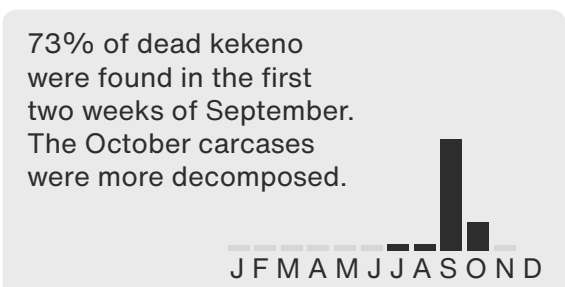
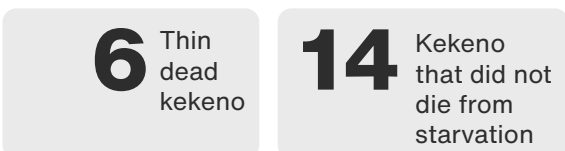
2024



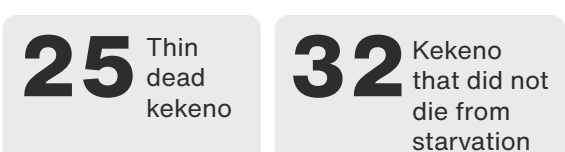
Attachment C



2023



2021



Study conducted pro bono by Shaun Lee. Read previous reports at <https://blog.shaullee.co.nz/kekeno/>

 **WAIHEKE
MARINE PROJECT**
WAIHEKE KI UTA WAIHEKE KI TAI WAIHEKE KI TUA

10th March 2025

Lucy Baragwanath
Executive Officer
Hauraki Gulf Forum
eo@haurakigulfforum.org.nz

Tēnā Koe Lucy

It was a real pleasure meeting with you in February as it was a wonderful opportunity to sit and have a kōrero around your new job and aspirations moving forward with the Hauraki Gulf Forum. We appreciated your time and we are still working on the opportunity to present our working model around Te Whare Tapa Wha (holistic framework to enhance each other) when we have completed and practiced its purpose within the Waiheke Marine Project.

As always the uncomfortable discussion around funding came up and we thank you for this opportunity for the HGF to consider a funding request from the Waiheke Marine Project (WMP).

The Forum has long been a supporter of the WMP from its explicit endorsement¹ of the WMP in 2021 to its contributions of \$2,500 in 2022 and \$6,000 in 2023 towards marine monitoring efforts by the WMP. In turn, the WMP is an active participant in HGF meetings and supporter of efforts to care for Tikapa Moana Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

This year of 2025 is a particularly exciting one, being a celebration of 25 years of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and for the WMP, the fifth year of its [Kōura dive survey](#). This survey run by the WMP epitomises the tagline of the HGF, of *inspired management and action* around the Gulf. The WMP has been running this volunteer powered dive survey since 2021. From its original intent to monitor kōura/crayfish populations around Waiheke Island and support the rāhui laid by Ngāti Paoa, the KDS survey has grown to be one of the largest 'citizen science' dive surveys in the country and reaches social, cultural and biodiversity outcomes.

¹ Resolution number HGF/2021/14 Moved by Member C Handley, seconded by Cr C Casey: That the Hauraki Gulf Forum a) note the Co-Chair's report. b) note the workshop presentation of the Waiheke Marine Project and endorse the work and commitments of the Waiheke Marine Project. CARRIED.

The KDS takes around \$45K to run, with each year raising the bar with more volunteer divers and skippers and general rise in expectations for the delivery of the survey. For 2025, the WMP has contracted two KDS coordinators, acknowledging the complexity of the task to prepare, plan and operationalise the KDS. The WMP is hugely appreciative of two confirmed funding contributors to the KDS2025, being the Lou and Iris Fisher Charitable Trust and Air New Zealand. However the survey budget is still short of just over \$24,000 in funds. We have provided a snapshot below of the KDS budget for your information. This includes a column titled “HGF ask” which notes particular line items of the KDS budget that may be of particular interest to the HGF in this 25th year of the Park.

Three of the line items are events where people are openly invited to share in the magic that is the KDS. There is the Mihi whakatau with breakfast on Day 1 of the KDS (scheduled 24th May, weather dependent) and the two events to share the results of the KDS 2025. One event is held at Sealife Kelly Tarltons for volunteers and supporters and one event is held on Waiheke Island for open attendance. The timing of these results share events is yet to be scheduled and is likely in August or September, enabling time for analysis of the dive survey data. At all these events, it would be a privilege to raise awareness of the HGF through acknowledgement of HGF support.

The fourth item is the production of an E training video, that could be a useful tool for sharing with others across the Gulf who are similarly focused on building local capabilities and capacity for marine care.

Item	Description	Budget forecast	HGF ask
Kōura Kaimahi	Survey coordinator	10,080	
KDS mana whenua	KDS mana whenua support	10,080	
KDS rōpū costs	Meeting & travel expenses in planning	1000	
Advertising	Gulf News and other media outlets	540	
Design & Production	E training video, Ad design, Film & edit	2,500	2500
Printing	Survey booklet, Youth collateral	650	
Survey material	Tapes, paper, boards, pencils, weights	850	
Wharf base expenses	Gear, food, beverage	100	
Dive gear rental	Full gear for WMP Regen Divers only	4,500	
Skipper fuel koha	Prezzie cards contribution to fuel	4,000	
1st day whakatau	MW facilitation with breakfast food	1,000	1000
Data analysis	Collation & analysis support	750	
Mainland event	Data share @ Kelly Tarltons	3,000	3000
Waiheke island share	Data share with focus on youth	3,000	3000
O2 Training	First Aider Training for WMP	900	
Gear Logistics Travel	Travel for Dive Gear to/from Waiheke	2,000	
	TOTAL	44,950	9500

We are grateful for this opportunity to request for funding from the HGF towards the costs of running the KDS 2025. Any funds received are hugely appreciated with a learned awareness that protecting and regenerating Tikapa Moana is the job of many.

Should you be able to provide funding to the WMP KDS2025, we would happily discuss how you would want the HGF support to be acknowledged. Options range from website to promotions to speaking at the events. We look forward to discussing any queries you may have about this funding request.

Ngā mihi anō mo tou manaakitanga.

Leigh Takirau and Kim Collins
Kaiwhakatere and Acting Kaiwhakatere
Waiheke Marine Project



Hauraki Gulf Forum Technical Officers Group Meeting Notes

29 April 2025 2-3pm

1. **Attendees:** Sarah Knott, JP Silva, Wyn Osborne, Dave Allen, Katina Conomos, Megan Carbines, Jayshree Kanji, Clint Rickards, James Fuller, Kathryn Lister, Liz Brooks, Leslie Vyfhuis, John Galilee, Kirsty Prior

Apologies: Mike Wyatt

2. **Karakia**

3. **Update on interim arrangements** - Katina Conomos has taken on the EO coordinating role in the interim period. Mike Giddey and Joao Paulo are supporting the forum meetings in May and August. Awhi has also been engaged for communications and public relations support. Recruitment for the EO role is to be determined.

4. **Round table update**

- **Auckland Council**

- o **Dave Allen** – Looking ahead to RM reform and establishing matters of relevance for the Hauraki Gulf.
Regarding the recent ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam event, AC’s focus is to try and establish how better catchment management can be achieved with planning, operational and regulatory tools.
- o **Megan Carbines** – The State of Environment Report is a key focus, and is due to come out in September.
Some pre- and post-storm beach monitoring was undertaken for the ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam event, to establish how different structures and approaches performed.
AC now also has a live forecasting system that was successful in predicting storm levels and damage.
- o **Liz Brooks** – Noted that trials to treat exotic Caulerpa with Chlorine Chamber and UV light treatments are underway. AC also planning a post-evaluation of UVC treatments undertaken a year ago at Rākino.
The Clean Hull package is still with Government.
The summer advocacy and engagement programme to help prevent spread of exotic Caulerpa across the Hauraki Gulf is wrapping up.
There has been a pest shrimp detected in Ōkahu Bay and a parasite found in yellow-eyed mullet – an update on this can be provided closer to the forum meeting.

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- **DOC**
 - o **Kirsty Prior** – There was minimal damage recorded as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam.
There is ongoing investigation into the yellow-bellied sea snake sighting. The third reading of the HGMPB is expected to take place next week, and Royal Ascent is anticipated soon. DOC intending to host a celebration event in in June.
The new marine park cadastral boundaries are being finalised with LINZ and will be updated in maps and webpages, supported by the roll out of a digital campaign and new infrastructure (including dual language signs and some CCTV) over the next year.
There have been discussions with partners for operations support with baseline surveys of the areas.
Implications to permitting are currently being worked through.
 - o **John Galilee** – Still awaiting decisions on the Waiheke Marine Reserve application.
The Minister has announced an urgent change to the Wildlife Act following the High Court Mt Messenger bypass ruling.
DOC has been establishing how to respond to Fast Track Approvals Act requests, noting capacity limitations to respond for Conservation Boards in particular.

- **WRC**
 - o **JP Silva** – Looking ahead to the RM Reform.
Wastewater standards submission raised concerns, including that many existing municipal wastewater discharges have contaminant standards which are more stringent than the proposed standards would require, and the standards as proposed will prevent Council from undertaking Treaty Settlement obligations.
The heaviest rainfall from ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam came through Thursday night to Friday morning, with fronts of heavy rainfall and thunderstorms Saturday and Sunday which caused rivers to rise quickly. In the Coromandel peninsula, the Pinnacles rainfall accumulation for the event was around a 2-5 average recurrence interval (ARI), or a 20% annual exceedance probability (AEP) rainfall event.
The Golden Cross rainfall accumulation for the event was around a 5-10 ARI, or a 20-10% AEP rainfall event.
Multiple road closures, fallen trees, and power outages reported across the region. including roads in Coromandel, such as Hikuai on Thursday night to Friday afternoon, Manaia Friday morning during high tide. There were reports of severe flooding in Karangahake Gorge but that was due to a blocked road culvert but the river flooding. Some landslides occurred on SH25a Friday morning but was cleared quickly. The wind was the big issue, gusts in exposed places in the Coromandel and Kaimais were >100km/hr and caused trees to come down and power outages across a lot of the region. Te Aroha river took a few days to peak but our flood schemes handled that well. The coastal water levels got high, with some

minor erosion along eastern Coromandel beaches. but during high tides, wave runup was reaching the sand dunes with spray and foam going further, but all in all the coastal impacts weren't too bad, they just exacerbated river flooding in low lying places during high tide.

- **Sarah Knott** – Consultation on our annual plan has taken place this month. Includes options for a targeted rate for a river and catchment management programme on the Wharekawa Coast.
Social Science team has been undertaking three-yearly survey on population's opinions, priorities and knowledge of environmental issues. Data collected will be assessed against SOE data and contribute to policy and education programmes.
Maritime officers helped with a boat that caught on fire in Mercury Bay. It's predicted that the majority of the 300 litres of fuel onboard are likely have been burned off, but teams will be monitoring for any environmental effects.
Natural Heritage Fund has granted Moehau Environment Group Incorporated money towards its Caring for Native Biodiversity in Northern Coromandel project. The funding will go towards labour and materials for pest control and community engagement programmes.
The final day of hearings for the Proposed Coastal Plan is scheduled for tomorrow (30 April).

- **MPDC**

- **Jayshree Kanji** – Plan Change 61 to align with National Planning Standards is soon to gain approval for formal notification. Also, a plan change for Waharoa.
Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam resulted in power outages and road closures. It took a few days for river levels to drop again.

- **FNZ**

- **Kathryn Lister** – Operational work on the HGMPB.
Preparing for the October Sustainability round, which will review forage fish species.
Contracted two big research projects; analysing video footage of benthic environments (results expected June 2026), and assessing dietary flexibility of forage fish predators.
The Minister decided not to increase the commercial take of crayfish in the CRA2 area and also implemented a significant closure in the Inner Gulf to all commercial and recreational spiny rock lobster harvest.
The Minister has directed FNZ to consider further management measures for the Northland spiny rock lobster (CRA 1) and packhorse rock lobster (PHC 1) fisheries.
The complexities of any reopening of the scallop fishery are being proactively discussed.

There is a review of the gathering of intertidal shellfish being undertaken, including suggestions to change fishery area boundaries to align with the Hauraki Gulf.

- **WDC**

- o **James Fuller** – Largely supportive of the targeted rates proposal for Wharekawa Coast and investigating where works could be focussed. A recent fire in Port Waikato was caused by dry weather.
- o A number of successful plantings undertaken recently have used Crystal Rain, and we saw better survivability than plantings without it.
- o Other work includes fast-track applications, coastal plan consultation, spatial planning work, and adaptation in coastal communities.

- **TCDC**

- o **Leslie Vyfhuis** – Impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam were light compared to Cyclone Gabrielle last year. Busy with consultation on the Annual Plan, including options for rubbish collection, water services provision, and a rating review. Also submissions to the Regional Coastal Plan. Looking ahead to the RM Reform and spatial planning.

- **Ngati Hei**

- o **Wyn Osborne** – Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam impacted a scallop spat trial. Looking to regroup for next year with heavier anchors or similar. Working with MPI for exotic Caulerpa elimination work in June at Repanga which will need resource consent. Currently configuring that with WRC. Also working on other consultations with councils.

No further updates

5. Upcoming HGF meeting agenda – 19 May, including public forum requests received so far (Central Wharves programme)

- Acting EOs were notified of a wharf proposal for central Auckland and a potential opportunity for feedback. The representatives have a conflicting appointment so cannot present at the May forum meeting. However, the proposal can be circulated to TOs to establish any areas of concern or wishes to pursue consultation opportunity. Proposal can be addressed in the EO report.
- Tau Ngaruhe presented to the Forum in September 2023 and has requested to provide another update.
- 2025 is the 25th anniversary of the HGMPA, and this will be acknowledged at the meeting.
- Could perhaps proactively look at a presentation on RM Reform and potential impacts on the Gulf. Also, potentially for the fast-track process and any applications relevant to the Gulf and marine park.
- DOC signalled that they would put forward a constituent party report alongside MPI for the May Forum meeting.

- AC highlighted support for the approach taken from the previous EO regarding TOs having the option to speak to their CP reports.
- 6. Preparations for State of the Gulf report**
- Katina noted that the next State of the Gulf report will be delivered in a central government election year and also after ascent of the Hauraki Gulf Marine protection legislation. Consideration needs to be given upfront to the messaging of the report.
 - Katina suggested a hui of TO to consider what the scope of the next report should be, before putting the work out to tender through AC. Katina to be in touch with a date for a hui.
- 7. Other business** – The Hauraki Gulf Forum Annual Report needs to be tabled in Government no later than August.

Meeting closed at 3:00pm.