

The Gulf is the Cradle of our Marine Heritage

My first introduction to the Hauraki Gulf was as a baby hung in a bassinet under the skylight of an F class yacht. My brother Chris and I grew up exploring the Gulf over Xmas and Easter holidays as did many other children of our generation. My children and their children have done the same.

NZ has the largest number of boats per capita than any other country in the world and the majority of these are in the and around the Hauraki Gulf.

NZ world champion Yachtsmen and women have been brought up cruising the Gulf with their parents and sailing in dinghies in the hundred or so yacht clubs around the Gulf.

We the boating public of NZ depend on an uncluttered Hauraki Gulf for:

Places to race Places to fish and dive Places to cruise

We don't want our heritage cluttered up with marine farms

The Marine Industry is founded on the Hauraki Gulf

The Hauraki Gulf has become a world renowned cruising destination because of its clean clear waters, its stunning scenery, unique wildlife, its uncluttered water- ways and its marine infrastructure. With it has come business that has benefitted several regions of the country.

Why screw up one Billion \$ industry for the suspect potential of another?

The Gulf is Home to Wildlife Sanctuaries

It seems that yachtsmen grow up to become environmentalists! The late Sir Peter Blake is a notable example as United Nations ambassador for the environment of the planet.

Peter made many trips to the Barrier in "Archangel" and always considered the Hauraki Gulf as "his favourite place". He was particularly interested in the potential for restoring the wildlife on Great Barrier as the largest island in the Gulf.

This involves a large section of Auckland's population as supporters or visitors and they all have to travel to these places by boat both commercial and private. When I first moved to Port FitzRoy the sight of a tui was remarkable enough to photograph it. Together with my neighbours we have developed a wildlife sanctuary on Kotuku Peninsula. Now only 20 years later tui are commonplace along with kaka, kereru, kingfisher, pateke, shining cuckoo, fantails and black petrel.