



Weaving the Strands

Promoting and facilitating integrated management around the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana

Beyond settlement

The purposes of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act focus on integrating management and recognition of the relationships of tāngata whenua with Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf and its islands.

Importance progress has been made in these areas in the last three years.

A recent example is the agreement, between the Crown and the 13 iwi/hapu of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (Tāmaki Collective), to the transfer of Crown land within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The Tāmaki Collective Record of Agreement, signed on 5 November 2011, confirms that Rangitoto and three other islands – Motutapu, Motuihe and Tiritiri Matangi – will be vested in the Tāmaki Collective.

Within a 12 month period after the settlement legislation has been enacted, the four islands will be vested in the tribes of the Tāmaki Collective and then will be vested back in the Crown for all New Zealanders.

In addition, there will be permanent island transfers to the tribes of the Tāmaki Collective. One example is on Rangitoto: the tihi (summit), which is spiritually significant to Māori, and two sites associated with historical waka mooring near Islington Bay.

Vesting will not happen until the settlement is legislated, and the Crown has confirmed that public access will not change on these areas.

The Treaty settlements process has been a primary driving force for change but is not the only agent.



Post settlement environment provides opportunities.

Formal relationships with key Government departments exercising functions within the Park are being recast, with the islands becoming subject to a new conservation management plan to be developed between the Department of Conservation and mana whenua.

The Crown is working on the completion of all remaining Treaty settlements affecting the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park within the next three years.

I welcome this improvement in the governance role of mana whenua with their tāonga in the area covered by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The post Treaty settlement environment provides many positive opportunities.

The Forum and its members will be keen to nurture and explore the many ways enhanced relationships with tāngata whenua can aid protection and enhancement of Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf.



*Mayor John Tregidga,
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum*



Research suggests Firth mussel beds are restorable.



Gareth Morgan goes fishing.



Tony Bouzaid of Glenfern.

Restoring mussel beds?

A recent study published in the journal *Marine and Freshwater Research* suggests that restoration of mussel reefs in the Firth of Thames is possible.

Mussel beds once covered vast areas of the Firth of Thames and Tamaki Strait and play an important ecosystem role through nutrient cycling, water filtration, providing habitat structure, biodiversity and food web dynamics.

Most of the mussel beds were dredged out between 1920 and 1960 and have not recovered. The recent *State of our Gulf* report noted that the few remaining beds would take about two years to filter the volume of the Firth compared to less than a day in the past.

Researchers transplanted farmed adult mussels into cages onto the seafloor at sites of different muddiness for 500 days. Nearly 70 percent of mussels survived at all sites, growing on average 19 mm, though mussels in the muddiest sites were in poorer condition.

The research suggests that current lack of recovery of mussel reefs is due to low recruitment and survival of junior mussels. "Restoration of mussel reefs and the ecosystem services they provide may therefore be possible," the article concludes.

www.publish.csiro.au/rss_feed/MF11083

Blue flag raised

Auckland's Westhaven Marina and The Landing at Okahu Bay were recently accredited with the international Blue Flag environmental award.

The Blue Flag programme, which operates in 41 countries and 3450 beaches and marinas, encourages marinas and boat owners to take an active role in keeping the marine environment clean.

Westhaven promotes environmental tips and safe marina practices and involves local schools and youth organisations in environmental initiatives. It is the 7th year running the marina has received the award.

The Landing became the world's first boat haulout and maintenance yard to become Blue Flag compliant in 2009, and this is its third consecutive award.

www.blueflag.org.nz

Yachting and conservation legacy

The boating and conservation communities mourned the passing of Tony Bouzaid in October.

Tony founded Glenfern Sanctuary on Great Barrier Island and over 20 years oversaw the planting of thousands of native tress, pest eradication, re-introduction of black robins, the building of a predator-proof fence, guest house, nature tourism enterprise and volunteer programme.

At a recent hui at Matairehe Marae Tony talked about how Glenfern's experience could be used to inform and support a Ngati Rehua and community vision to bring kokako back to Great Barrier.

New Zealand yachtsman of the year in 1979, Tony was also a passionate

advocate for protecting the pristine anchorages and cruising opportunities of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park from aquaculture and other development. He spoke at the *State of our Gulf* seminar in September on the value of the Gulf for boating.

His presentation can be viewed at <http://tiny.cc/udxe5>

Hook, Line and Blinkers?

Well known economic commentator and author Gareth Morgan has published his latest book on the state of New Zealand fisheries.

According to Morgan and co-author Geoff Simmons "we acted to save our fisheries by creating the Quota Management System 25 years ago. This was world leading at the time, but since then other countries have surpassed us. Action is needed again, as the tragedy of the commons is still unravelling before our very eyes; particularly inshore where recreational and commercial fishers still face a race to fish, and in the lack of environmental standards to limit the externalities of fishing."

Morgan and Simmons, who addressed the Hauraki Gulf Forum in December, suggested the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is the perfect place to test these ideas.

They argue the Hauraki Gulf/Bay of Plenty snapper substock is one of New Zealand's most contested fisheries, and would benefit from co-management by all fishers. To prevent further degradation of the Gulf environment they advocate more reserves and environmental standards.



A future in kingfish?



New perspectives on coast.



New Chum message still relevant.

“The Gulf is one of the most heavily used areas of coastal space, and is the most obvious place to benefit from a process of Marine Spatial Planning and charging of commercial users.”

www.blinkers.co.nz

Fish farming set for growth

The Waikato Regional Council expects to call for tender bids for new fish farming space in late February or March 2012. Criteria emphasise the potential socio-economic benefits from development.

The recently enacted aquaculture reform legislation amended the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan to create a 300 hectare zone off Coromandel, and set aside 90 hectares of vacant space within the Wilsons Bay Zone for fish farming. Both these areas are subject to a 20 percent allocation of space to the Māori Trustee.

An assessment of the economic value and potential of Waikato marine farming has been recently released by the Hauraki-Coromandel Development Group and Waikato Regional Council.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/PageFiles/6331/economic%20impact%20report%202011.pdf

Boats-eye view

New photographs of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park coastline are now available on the Auckland Council website.

A water-based survey was undertaken earlier this year to photograph the

complete coastline, including harbours, inner and offshore islands.

The resulting images capture the same view a human eye would see from a vessel 500 metres offshore. The photographs were taken at 400-700 metre intervals to provide a perspective of the coast that complements aerial photography.

The images can be viewed on the council's GIS viewer by using the “LiveMaps/Monitoring” layer.

<http://maps.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aucklandcouncilviewer/>

New Chum future uncertain

The future of New Chum Beach remains uncertain after a proposal presented to the government to protect the beach catchment was withdrawn by the developers Coastal Land Trust Holdings.

Advocates for retaining the pristine nature of the beach – accessible only by foot around a headland from Whangapoua – regrouped recently to explore options.

Spokesperson for *Preserve New Chum for Everyone* Linda Cholmondeley-Smith said any future development proposals needed to explore options that left the area of the property within the New Chum catchment untouched.

A meeting in November was well attended by national and local government representatives.

Britain's Observer newspaper ranked New Chum or Wainuiototo in the

world's top 20 deserted beaches, and National Geographic called it one of New Zealand's most beautiful locations.

www.preservenewchum.org.nz

Shakespeare open

A pest-free Shakespeare Regional Park recently opened its gates as Auckland's second open sanctuary.

The park was closed for five months to eradicate animal pests and create a safe haven for birds.

A 1.75km pest-proof fence and automatic gates will keep out pests like rats, cats, rabbits, hedgehogs, possums, stoats and weasels.

Auckland Council Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum Chairwoman Sandra Coney said new visitors should check bags, camping gear and trailers for any stowaway pests before leaving home.

Shakespeare Open Sanctuary Society Inc members and volunteers have been hard at work while the park has been closed. An expanded native plant nursery will produce 10-13,000 plants each year for the sanctuary's revegetation programme.

It is hoped bellbirds, kakariki and pateke will make their way across the Gulf from nearby Tiritiri Matangi Island.

Auckland Council is working closely with park neighbours and partners, the New Zealand Defence Force, Watercare and YMCA Shakespeare Lodge, as well as SOSSI, the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and park volunteers.

www.sossi.org.nz



Concern for black petrels.



Environment committee on Barrier.



Nostalgic plate.

Black petrel action group

An action group has been established following a report suggesting black petrels, which breed only on Little Barrier and Great Barrier Islands, are at risk from commercial long-line fishing.

A recently published Ministry of Fisheries risk assessment – based on limited boat observer coverage – estimates that between 725 and 1524 black petrels may have been killed each year from 2003 to 2009.

Land-based research at black petrel breeding colonies indicates the population is declining at a rate of around 1.8% a year. Dr Elizabeth Bell briefed the Forum on the situation at its December meeting.

The Southern Seabird Solutions Trust also ran a recent workshop in Auckland to explore seabird by-catch issues with recreational fishers.

Meanwhile, seabird researchers reported birds which breed in the

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, including Buller's shearwaters, fluttering shearwaters and white-faced storm petrels, were affected by the initial oil slick from the Rena off Tauranga.

www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/6A38D8A4-6AE7-473B-AC94-BE59B1B3E79C/0/FRR_Seabird_risk_assessmen_2011t.pdf

www.southernseabirds.org

Island boards go green

The Auckland Council's Great Barrier Island Local Board has established its first sub-committee, to provide leadership on environmental issues. Committee chair Richard Sommerville-Ryan said the new committee would commission reports and consult with the community. Its first meeting in November considered beach and stream water quality monitoring and a community vision to return kokako to the island. It plans a workshop on marine protection in February.

Meanwhile, Waiheke Local Board and Hauraki Gulf Forum member Denise

Roche has entered parliament as a Green Party member. She joins sitting National MP Nikki Kaye, who identified marine protection of the Hauraki Gulf as one of her top priorities, a day after retaining her Auckland Central seat in a close contest.

Outdated?

Hauraki Gulf Forum Manager Tim Higham recently snapped this number plate and sticker on a late model Toyota Hilux. The Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park hasn't existed since 1990, but it is nice to see it still has its affiliates! The maritime park was finally replaced by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in 2000 after strong advocacy by many parties, including sailors. It establishes consistent objectives across all management agencies, focused on protection and enhancement. Perhaps it needs a bumper sticker too?

Under consultation

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Auckland Council

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a statutory body charged with the promotion and facilitation of integrated management and the protection and enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Maori Affairs, elected representatives from Auckland Council (including the Great Barrier and Waiheke local boards), Waikato Regional Council, and the Waikato, Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata Piako district councils, plus six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.

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Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana