

May 2017

Tai Timu Tai Pari

Sea Change

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

An introduction and overview



Hauraki Gulf
Marine Park
Ko te Pataka kai
o Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki a Hōne o Waikato

Auckland
Council
Te Kaitiaki a Hōne o Waikato



FOREWORD

For over a millennia, the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana has been a taonga to the people who belong to this nationally significant place.

The Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana (also known as Te Moananui-ā-Toi) is of the utmost cultural and spiritual significance to mana whenua through its rich history of settlement and use since waka first navigated its waters. It is an incredible natural environment and special place highly valued by all.

The Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana is under significant pressure and its communities have seen a marked decline in the mauri, environmental quality and abundance of resources.

Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari is the project established in 2013 to act to reverse this decline. The Sea Change process was led by a governance group representing a partnership between mana whenua and local and central government agencies, having equal membership.

The Sea Change process led to the writing of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan by a Stakeholder Working Group comprising 14 members reflecting a diverse range of interests including mana whenua, environmental and conservation, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, land use, farming and infrastructure.

The development of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan was guided by the following vision:

“He taonga tuku iho – treasures handed down from the ancestors Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi – the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is vibrant with life, its mauri strong, productive, and supporting healthy and prosperous communities.”

The members of the Stakeholder Working Group worked in a highly collaborative manner, demonstrating significant levels of personal commitment, sacrifice, perseverance and vision to deliver the plan. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan could not have been completed without the leadership of the Project Steering Group, and the strong support of mana whenua, agencies and the writing, project support and technical teams.

The next step for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan is the implementation process. There are high community expectations that the plan will be the catalyst for mana whenua, communities and agencies work together to return the Gulf to a place that is vibrant with life, has a strong mauri, is productive and supports healthy and prosperous communities.

This overview document is intended as an introduction and guide only. The complete 312 page version of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan contains fuller explanations and details of the recommended actions. It can be viewed and downloaded at www.seachange.org.nz and is available electronically through the central and local government agencies involved.



Paul F Majurey
Chair
Project Steering Group
Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari



Paul Beverley
Independent Chair
Stakeholder Working Group
Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari

WHAT IS THE SEA CHANGE HAURAKI GULF MARINE SPATIAL PLAN?

Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari is a collaborative and co-governance process tasked with preparing a marine spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The outcome delivered through the ‘Sea Change’ process is the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan - New Zealand’s first marine spatial plan. The Plan covers the Hauraki Gulf and encompasses the entire eastern Coromandel Peninsula as well as the contributing land-based catchments.

The Plan lays the foundation for an integrated approach to managing the Hauraki Gulf. It aims to secure a healthy, productive and sustainable future for the Gulf through:

- improving the understanding of the pressures on the coastal and marine environs
- identifying and proposing long-term solutions to improve overall health, mauri, quality and wellbeing
- providing increased certainty for the economic, cultural and social goals of our communities in and around the Gulf
- ensuring that the ecosystem functions that make those goals possible are sustained.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan aims to improve the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and its catchments by taking a fresh look at its management, and to develop a roadmap for its future.

Importantly, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan recognises the long and inseparable association, traditions and knowledge that mana whenua have with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park – spiritually and as a community resource. This mana whenua view is interwoven throughout all parts of the Plan including its science, management approaches and recommended actions.

Principles established under the Treaty of Waitangi include a Crown duty to actively protect Māori rights and interests, and recognition that the relationship between the two parties is one of partnership.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan was written when regional Treaty claims negotiations were taking place with multiple iwi and hapū. These negotiations will lead to greater iwi involvement in the management of natural resources and the environments of the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel Peninsula.

A key principle agreed to by all parties involved in the development of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan is that its implementation does not in any way affect or dilute Treaty settlements.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLAN?

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan is a non-statutory document. It does not contain any rules and it is not legally binding in itself. It provides integrated management approaches and recommended actions to inform stakeholders and the partner agencies who manage the Gulf and its resources - Waikato Regional Council, Auckland Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries and the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

WHY WAS IT DEVELOPED?

Forecast population growth, urban development and the intensification of land-use around the Gulf, both urban and rural, will see an increase in social and environmental stressors on the environmental, recreational, economic, cultural and spiritual values that make the Gulf so special to all. This is reflected in the last three State of the Gulf reports produced by the Hauraki Gulf Forum which show a declining trend in the state of the Gulf.

While the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is incredibly resilient, so much has been lost, destroyed or damaged and very little recovery has been achieved to date. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan sets out a roadmap to restore and rebuild its values – to return it to the national taonga of the utmost importance to all New Zealanders.



Map showing Hauraki Gulf Marine Park - Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui ā Toi

HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

A 14 member Stakeholder Working Group developed the Plan through extensive engagement with mana whenua, local communities, stakeholders and technical experts, and considerable contributions from local and central government agencies.

The Stakeholder Working Group was selected to represent those sectors that have an impact on or an interest in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park including mana whenua, recreational and commercial fishing, farming, aquaculture, infrastructure, community, and environmentalists.

All Stakeholder Working Group members have long-term personal and cultural connections with the community, alongside a deep knowledge of, and a set of priority concerns for, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Five key partner agencies assisted and supported the Stakeholder Working Group by providing information, technical advice and guidance. These were Waikato Regional Council, Auckland Council, Department of Conservation, the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the Ministry for Primary Industries, working with Mana Whenua iwi.

The three-year collaborative process through which the Stakeholder Working Group developed the Plan, saw it informed by science, mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) and hundreds of community 'voices' with knowledge and experience of the Gulf. This process was supported by the partner agencies along with Mana Whenua representatives.

THIS OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

The complete 312 page version of Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan was launched in December 2016. Community feedback since its release indicates that a concise summary or overview document would be useful for readers to gain an overview of the Plan.

This overview document is intended as an introduction and guide only. The complete 312 page version of the Plan contains fuller explanations and details of all recommended actions. It can be viewed and downloaded at www.seachange.org.nz.

NAVIGATING THE PLAN

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan is broadly divided into four parts which group the related chapters and issues. Each chapter contains a description of the current situation, identifies objectives for the subject matter and a series of recommended actions for implementing these objectives.

The four overarching concepts that underpin the Plan are described in the diagram below.



THEMES

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan proposes over 180 recommended actions spread across 16 'themes'. The aim of each theme and key associated recommended actions proposed in the Plan are provided below.

THEME 1

Rebuilding fish stocks

Aim - use an ecosystem-based approach to manage the harvest of wild fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in order to rebuild depleted fish stocks within a generation.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Review the management settings for priority fish stocks and set stock catch limits.
- Reduce the mortality of undersize fish.
- Improve protection of vulnerable species and shellfish beds.
- Improve reporting and observer coverage by commercial and charter boats.
- Undertake an urgent review of purse seining.
- Establish a separate fisheries management area and quota management area for the Park supported by a Gulf-wide fisheries research and monitoring system.

THEME 2

Restoring habitats

Aim – to restore benthic habitats of importance to juvenile fish. This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Transition to seabed-friendly fishing methods by phasing bottom trawling and Danish seining out of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
- Use a phased approach to transition recreational and commercial scallop dredging out of the Park.
- Initiate a Hauraki Gulf Restoration Initiative which identifies priority areas for restoration, scales up current active restoration activities and identifies and applies new approaches.



What people told us

There is a willingness to compromise and accept recreational fishing impacts – via rāhui, marine protected areas or catch/size limits – but only if commercial fishing operations are made sustainable, restricted or removed from the Gulf.

Fishing technologies and sectors that damage the seafloor and its habitats are not acceptable.

Fishing quotas should be provided for all species and limits placed on size (under/over) in order to ensure that there is equity between recreational and commercial fishers.

'Quotas are not targets', a campaign would be valuable, people need to be educated to take what they need and leave the rest for another day - 'tiakina te pātaka kai (take care of our food cupboard).'

Introduce or strengthen penalties for people or organisations breaking the rules and give regulatory agencies the funding and resources they need to enforce compliance.



THEME 3

Aquaculture

Aim – to provide a prosperous aquaculture industry which positively contributes to the health and wellbeing of the people and the environment of the Hauraki Gulf.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Identify areas within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park that should be prioritised for future aquaculture development.
- Identify areas that are not suitable for aquaculture.
- Ensure potential adverse ecological effects associated with aquaculture are appropriately managed and monitored.
- Develop a clear and consistent aquaculture regulatory framework to provide the community, mana whenua and aquaculture industry with certainty about how it will be managed.
- Support aquaculture related research and innovation.

THEME 4

Restoring healthy functioning ecosystems

Aim – to maintain and restore the quality of ecosystem services provided by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park including its estuaries, coastal waters and seafloor habitats.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Ensure all government sectors and agencies, integrate into their decision-making systems, consideration of the potential impacts of their activities on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park's ecosystems.
- Establish and implement a Hauraki Gulf Biodiversity Research Plan to better understand its ecosystems and human impacts on marine species and their habitats.
- Comprehensively map seafloor habitats.
- Establish a Gulf-wide monitoring system that measures ecosystem health.

THEME 5

Protected, enhanced and restored habitats

Aim – to identify and protect ecologically important marine habitats throughout the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Identify and establish new marine protected areas (including marine reserves, special management areas and ahu moana areas) following consultation processes with mana whenua, local communities and stakeholder groups.
- Identify and restore ecologically significant habitats throughout the Park including bivalve beds.

THE 4 TYPES OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PROPOSED*:

- **Type 1** – No take marine reserves
(Customary harvest by special permit excepted)
- **Type 2** – Benthic protection
- **Special Management Area** – No commercial and limited recreational and targeted sports fishing,
- **Ahu moana** – mana whenua and community co-managed areas

* refer to map on page 12

THEME 6

Restored species diversity and abundance

Aim – to halt further decline in biodiversity and to restore species diversity so that there are healthy and functioning populations within the Park. This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Maintain the predator free status of islands in the Hauraki Gulf.
- Develop priority management actions and research for seabird and shorebird populations.
- Improve the quality of seabird and shorebird habitat.
- Eliminate Bryde's whale deaths by ship strike and manage vessel interactions with Bottlenose dolphins.
- Reduce and remove barriers for fish migrating between the sea and fresh water.

THEME 7

Marine debris

Aim – to reduce the quantity of marine debris, particularly plastics, generated and entering the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Undertake public education campaigns on litter in the marine environment.
- Undertake research and monitoring programmes on litter in the marine environment.

THEME 8

Biosecurity

Aim - to identify, manage and mitigate threats to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park from pests and diseases through prevention, early warning and detection, eradication, and control measures.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Strengthen co-ordinated regional action on marine biosecurity
- Eradicate or control unwanted species
- Increase of the public and marine sector.

AHU MOANA - are coastal areas identified for co-management by mana whenua and local communities.

Ahu moana can enable mana whenua and local communities to respond to coastal and fisheries management issues with a more prompt and flexible approach than currently provided by existing legislation.

Some key points that apply to Ahu moana:

- A 50:50 co-management approach between mana whenua and local communities.
- Ahu moana are initiated at the local level
- Ahu moana areas do not restrict access to the marine environment.
- Commercial and recreational fishing are allowed in Ahu moana.
- Fishing and other activities may be restricted by mana whenua and local communities in Ahu moana to protect fisheries or the environment.
- Ahu moana are able to be integrated with existing (and future) fisheries and conservation instruments, such as marine reserves and marine protected areas, and mahinga mātaītai, taiāpure and rāhui within fisheries legislation.
- Ahu moana do not affect the application of other statutory management tools to protect fisheries or the environment

THEME 9

Sediment

Water quality is one of the greatest areas of concern affecting the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The most common known causes of water quality degradation trace back to contaminants that are washed from the land into the coastal marine area through freshwater runoff.

Aim – to minimise sediment erosion and capture sediment run-off before it reaches the marine environment.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Develop and implement harbour and catchment management plans.
- Establish catchment sediment load limits.
- Increase natural and artificial sediment traps in contributing freshwater waterways.
- Improve waterway management through stock exclusion and planting.
- Ensure that good sediment management practices are undertaken by land owners.
- Identify and protect highly erodible soils.
- Review forestry impacts on sedimentation.
- Investigate innovative solutions to address sediment already in the marine area.

THEME 10

Nutrients

Aim – to ensure that human derived nutrients entering the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park are not at a level which cause adverse effects such as oxygen depletion and acidification of seawater.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Establish a long term nutrients monitoring programme.
- Ensure no increase in nutrient loads as an interim measure until sufficient information is available to set nutrient load limits.
- Establish and monitor catchment nutrient load limits.

THEME 11

Heavy metals

Aim – to reduce heavy metals entering the coastal marine area and degrading the health and productivity of marine habitats.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Reduce heavy metal contaminants at source.
- Prevent heavy metal contaminants entering waterways.



THEME 12

Microbial pathogens

Aim – to improve the mauri, swimmability and health of coastal waters and shellfish by avoiding the discharge of untreated sewage into the marine area.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Ensure adequate wastewater infrastructure is in place and utilised.
- Address sewage discharge from recreational vessels.
- Reduce pathogen runoff from agricultural and conservation land into the marine area.
- Ban all disposal of human remains into the coastal marine area.

THEME 13

Risks and threats to water quality

Aim – to be prepared to respond to risk and threats to water quality such as ship sinking, chemical spills, major sewage discharges and storm and flood events.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Ensure that all significant risks and threats are identified and minimised.
- Ensure that response measures, including training and preparedness, are in place.

THEME 14

Inspiring the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park community

Aim – to recognise the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park as a national taonga that must be preserved and restored so it is valued, retains a sense of place for future generations and provides a quality experience for all.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Implement media and marketing campaigns consistent with a “One Gulf, one message” to implement kaitiakitanga and guardianship and instil community pride.
- Improve the coordination of volunteering activities for conservation, species monitoring, replanting, beach clean and shellfish monitoring.
- Expand marine education opportunities to give children positive experiences interacting with the marine area.

THEME 15

Providing access to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

Aim – to identify the important different place values within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and identify what activities can be offered and the infrastructure required to support those activities.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Enable place based decision making by identifying the values to manu whenua and local communities.
- Create and implement a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Visitor Strategy that protects the values of key destinations while creating important opportunities for expanding local economies.
- Create and implement a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Transport Strategy that includes passenger and car ferry services, buses/ trains and mobility access and would support local community economic opportunities by connecting remote communities to markets. This would include a 'Blue Highway' with water transport connecting regional hubs throughout the Park.
- Develop a 'Walking on Water Strategy' to consider provision of public access to the marine environment and islands of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park for walking, kayaking, cycling, and camping.

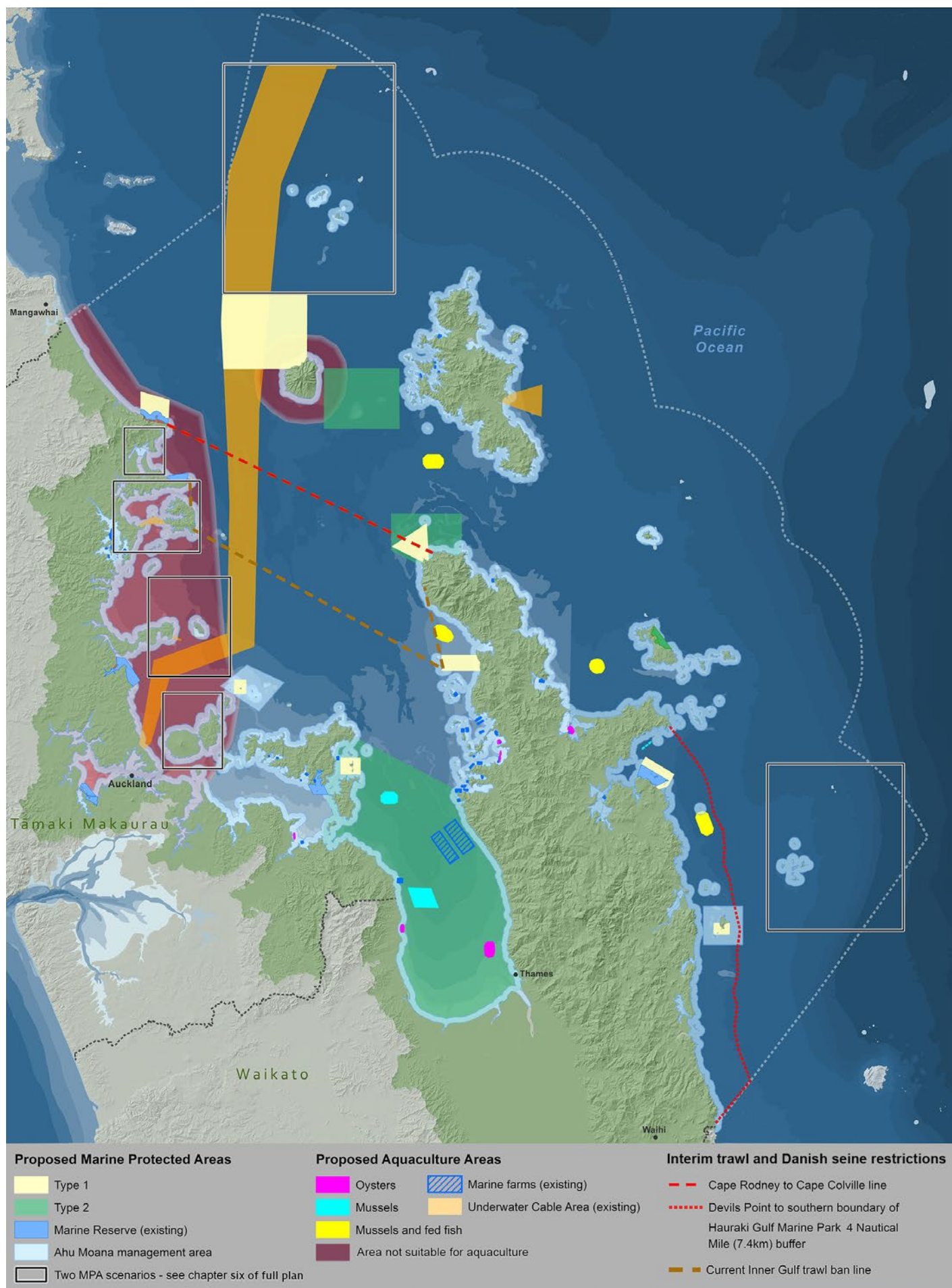
THEME 16

Designing coastal infrastructure

Aim – to design coastal infrastructure that works with nature, minimise environmental impacts, and avoid problems for future generations.

This can be achieved through recommended actions in the Plan to:

- Create and implement blue design principles.
- Establish a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Design Panel to advise applicants for major infrastructure projects within the Park.



IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

The Plan has been developed as an integrated package, and the Stakeholder Working Group's view is that it should be implemented as a "whole". However, it is clearly not possible to undertake all the actions immediately, and agencies and stakeholders will need to prioritise them for time-staged implementation.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan contains a series of recommendations only and it is envisaged that the various agencies will consult the public as the Plan is implemented.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan does not identify lead agencies to implement each of the actions. Instead, the expectation is that the partner agencies will work together to coordinate the implementation and delivery of the Plan as a whole. However, for some actions, the lead agency is clear based on statutory purpose and legislative functions.

It took several generations to create the current impacts, so we expect that restoration to our desired outcomes may also take decades.

Strong, effective co-governance is the key element that will influence the success and implementation of the Plan.

Governance is already in place through statutory agencies, and much of the implementation will occur through these agencies; in particular the Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and Department of Conservation. An overarching perspective is also provided by the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained from any of the key partner agencies associated with Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

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