



Sea change

Tai Timu Tai Pari

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

The Aquaculture Round Table Report Callum McCallum February 2015



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

In partnership with mana whenua and the following agencies:



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 o Rōhe o Waikato

Auckland
Council
Te Kaitiaki o Tamaki Makaurau





Aquaculture Round Table – Scope

“to determine the role and needs of aquaculture in the Gulf, including impacts and benefits”





Participants

- Laws Lawson
- Gary Hooper
- James Hendra
- Willie Lochore
- Harry Mikaere
- Barry Weeber
- Hamish Hey
- Keith Woodley
- Alan Proctor
- Raewyn Peart
- Dirk Sieling
- Callum McCallum
- Katrina Goddard
- Laurie Beamish





Aquaculture in the Gulf

Mussels: 30,000 tonnes from 1480 ha

- mostly in the Wilson Bay zone (1106 ha)

Oysters: 1400 tonnes from 210 ha

- mostly in Mahurangi Harbour (108 ha)

Fish: zone created but no farms yet

- 300 hectare Coromandel marine farming zone
- 90 hectares within the Wilson Bay zone





What it does...

Produces healthy food

- growing global demand for nutritious food

Creates jobs

- direct employment of over 700 FTEs

Contributes to the economy

- adds \$59 million to GDP
- supports other sectors: charter boats, tourism, restaurants, service industries





What it does...

Shellfish farms filter the water

- extract nutrients by feeding on phytoplankton

Farm structures create habitat

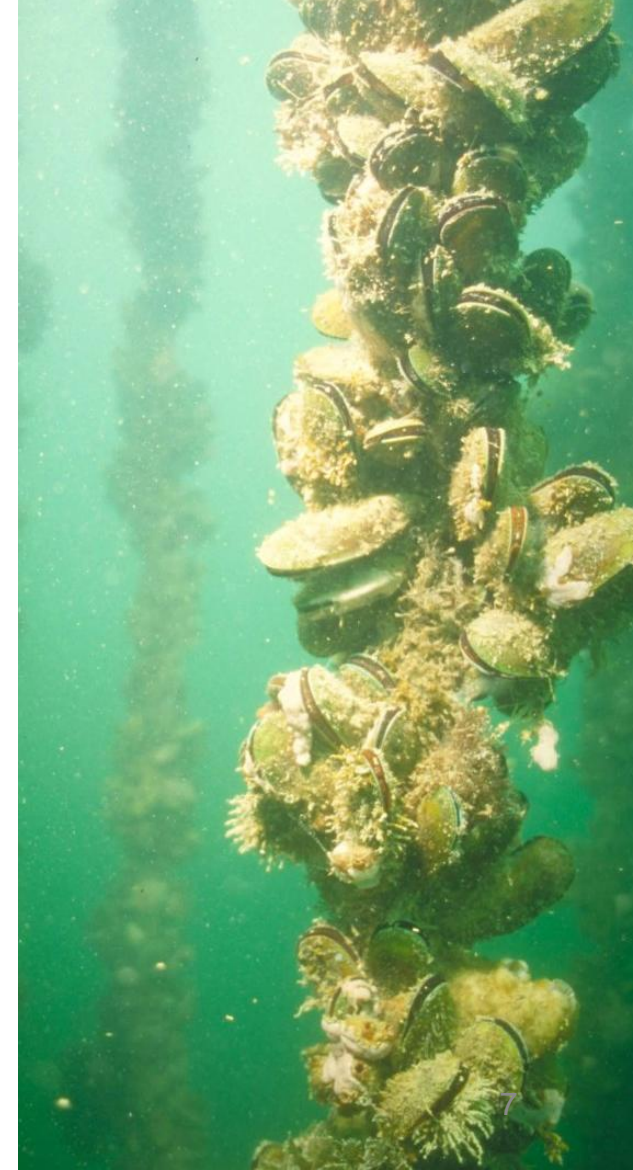
- 'artificial reef' effect provides food and shelter

Monitors the environment

- 'canary in the mine'

Supports the recreational fishery

- many fishing spots are mussel farms





Example – Revive our Gulf



OUR VISION

- A Hauraki Gulf enhanced with restored seabed mussel reefs, healthy ecosystems and a natural biodiversity of marine life.





What it needs...

Good growing water

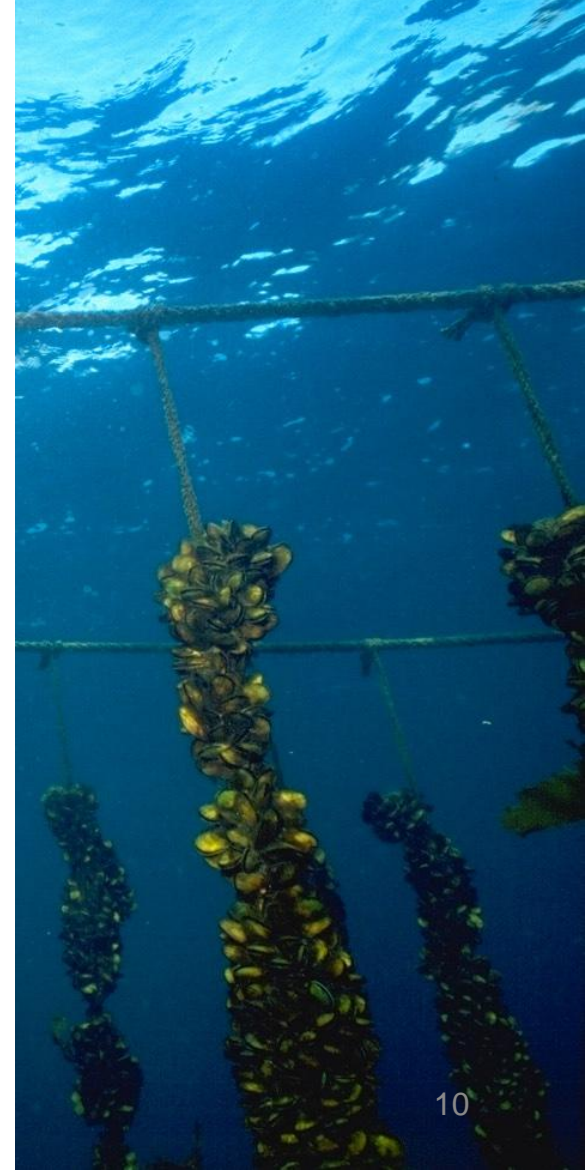
- clean, nutrient rich, sheltered, suitable depth

Land based infrastructure

- landing facilities, shore depots, transport links

Supportive regulatory environment

- certainty for business planning and investment





Challenges...

Managing potential adverse effects

- ecological effects
- landscape and natural character

Minimising conflicts with other users

- boating and commercial fishing

Effects can be avoided or minimised by locating farms in suitable locations and by applying good farming practices





The Round-Table's Vision

‘Prosperous aquaculture that positively contributes to the health and wellbeing of the people and environment of the Gulf’





Desired outcomes

- thriving sector supports the communities
- healthy environment is maintained
- farms are environmental sentinels and contribute to restoration
- conflicts over use of space are minimised
- add to knowledge of the state of the Gulf
- certainty for planning and investment
- flexibility to innovate and diversify
- a variety of scales of aquaculture





Recommendations

Maximise benefits

- Develop a 3-tiered regulatory framework:
 - **enable** where benefits will be maximised
 - **restrict** where it is not suitable
 - allow consideration **case-by-case** in other areas
- Identify the areas where it should be enabled
- Ensure community and social benefits occur
 - prioritise those with strong links to communities
 - ensure regulation doesn't prevent small operations



Recommendations

Maximise benefits

- Recognise ecological benefits
 - in the regulatory regime
 - provide for mussel reef enhancement and restoration
- Encourage innovation and research
 - provide for research and innovation in the regulatory regime
 - promote development of a research centre
 - use Aquaculture as an education opportunity
- Coordinate monitoring
- Reduce risks to aquaculture



Recommendations

Locate where:

- benefits will be maximised
- biophysical conditions are suitable for farming
- it does not impact on ecologically significant areas
- Away from areas where it will adversely affect outstanding natural character, features or landscapes
- it will not conflict with popular high use areas



Recommendations

Frameworks and guidelines

- Consistent regulation across the Gulf
- Recognise the value of investment
 - provide certainty about process and outcome in the regulatory regime
 - encourage increased production from existing farms
- Alternative allocation approaches
 - allocate space to operators that will maximise the benefits



Recommendations

Frameworks and guidelines

- Develop robust guidelines
 - navigational safety
 - biosecurity
 - adaptive management approaches
- Develop nationally consistent approach to abandonment
- Monitoring of strategic issues
 - good baseline data
 - consistent metrics
 - transparency



Aquaculture:

- is a growing sector
- has positive benefits for people and the environment
- has potential adverse effects that can be managed through good location and good farming practices
- can contribute much more to the people and environment of the Gulf





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Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

End of Report

Aquaculture Round-Table: Callum MaCallum, Katrina Goddard, Laurie Beamish, Laws Lawson, Gary Hooper, Andrew Selby, James Hendra, Willie Lochore, Harry Mikaere, Barry Webber, Hamish Hey, Keith Woodley, Alan Proctor, Joe Davis, Raewyn Peart, Dirk Sieling



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