

Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

Stakeholder and iwi engagement overview

Updated April 2020



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

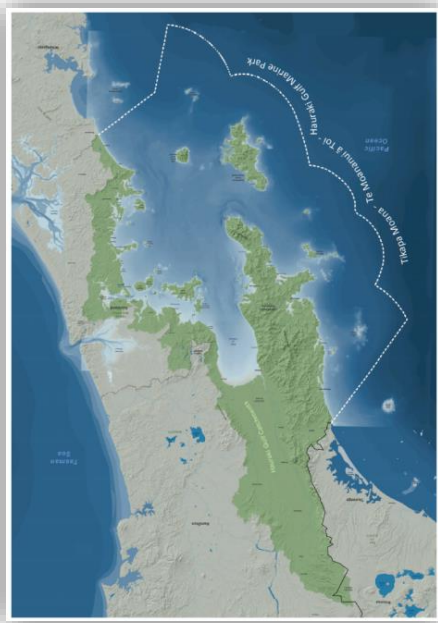


Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Welcome and overview

- Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries are developing the Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change Plan.
- The following presentation outlines our proposed response.
- It is important to us that iwi and key stakeholders:
 - Understand our responses to the Plan and understand their implications.
 - Have the opportunity to provide feedback or information that will help us better shape the Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change Plan due to Ministers by July 2020.
- We are engaging between February and end of May 2020.
- There will be an opportunity for attendees to provide further feedback until 30 April.
- There will be further engagement opportunities post July 2020.
- COVID 19 implications may affect our engagement approach.

Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan



- Released in 2016, this non-statutory plan contains a set of proposals to improve the environmental health and mauri of the HGMP* – our only marine park and a national taonga to all of New Zealand
- Developed because the HGMP is increasing and sustained pressure from marine and land based activities leading to declines in environmental health, health and abundance
- Developed over 3 years by a 14-member stakeholder working group representing interests in the Hauraki Gulf including mana whenua
- Project support provided by Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, DOC and MPI
- Includes proposals for fisheries management, marine protection, habitat restoration, catchment management, localised co-management, aquaculture and opportunities for economic development

• * HGMP Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

Government Response Strategy (the ‘Strategy’)

- MPI together with DOC are developing the Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change Plan.
- Scope of Strategy is Plan proposals within mandate of fisheries and conservation – but will reference work of implementation partners such as Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council.
- Guide government’s intentions for an ongoing programme of work in the HGMP – immediate and longer term. Subject to regular monitoring and review.
- Some initiatives will require formal consultation and regulatory change.
- The Strategy will reflect the special role of mana whenua kaitiaki, recognising Treaty rights and ongoing settlement processes and the need to meet Government’s statutory obligations.

Government Response Strategy (the ‘Strategy’)

- The Strategy will provide for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of marine resources and align with the following outcomes:
 - Strengthened kaitiakitanga / guardianship
 - Enhancement and restoration of healthy functioning ecosystems and habitats
 - Protection and restoration of species diversity and abundance.
 - A thriving Hauraki Gulf Marine Park fishery
 - Localised abundance
- The Strategy, and its intentions to improve the health and mauri of the HGMP, is a priority for Minister Nash (Fisheries) and Minister Sage (Conservation)
- In July 2019 an independent Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), with expertise in subject matters relevant to the HGMP, was established by the Ministers to support the Strategy development.
- July 2020 – anticipated delivery of Strategy to Ministers



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Progress on the Strategy

When	What
Feb – July 2019	Establish MAC and project governance
July – Oct 2019	Agency assessment of Plan proposals
Oct – April 2020	Analysis and work programme implementation
Feb – May 2020	Stakeholder engagement and further analysis
May – June 2020	Testing outcomes with MAC and Ministers
Post June 2020	Further engagement if required

Strategy Work Streams

- Proposals grouped into thematic work streams recognising linkages
 - Fisheries management
 - Habitat restoration
 - Aquaculture
 - Marine protection
 - Protected species
 - Ahu Moana (localised input into the management of near inshore areas)
 - Marine biosecurity
 - Governance.
- Mātauranga Māori and ecosystem-based management approaches are considerations across all work streams and development of the Strategy.
- Through the MAC and our engagement activities we are testing our proposals as we work towards developing to the Strategy.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

WS1: Fisheries management

- Our proposed approach to consider and deliver on the Sea Change outcomes is to develop a Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan through the Fisheries Act 1996
- The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan will be tailored to the HGMP, its iwi and communities and will include objectives and responses to the issues raised in the Sea Change Plan.
- The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan enables integration with other approaches to deliver outcomes considered in the Government Response Strategy; e.g. habitat restoration by removing fisheries impacts and marine protection proposals.
- Following a formal consultation process and, once signed by the Minister, the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan would become a mandatory consideration for decisions involving sustainability measures or regulating or controlling fishing.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

WS2: Habitat Restoration

- Our proposed response to deliver on the Sea Change restoration objectives is to develop an Habitat Restoration Guidance Framework to inform restoration decisions.
- A framework is important and useful because marine-based habitat restoration is still a relatively new concept compared to land-based restoration, and there is a need for specific guidance.
- The Habitat Restoration Guidance Framework will:
 - Identify active and passive restoration options
 - Report the services habitats provide
 - Present Gulf-wide habitat restoration priorities and potential
 - Support current shellfish reef restoration efforts and other restoration activities in the HGMP.
- We are also looking at existing restoration projects to identify how their implementation might be better supported and connected to other activities.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

WS3: Aquaculture

- Consideration of the aquaculture proposals within the Plan sits within Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council through their regional coastal plans provisions and associated statutory processes.
- The Government's Aquaculture Strategy (2019) supports the implementation of the Plan's aquaculture proposals.
- We will be engaging with the councils and industry stakeholders to identify how and where government can better support and enable aquaculture activity in the HGMP consistent with the Sea Change Plan and the Government Aquaculture Strategy.
- We are also keen to support appropriate infrastructure, research and innovation initiatives for aquaculture in the Hauraki Gulf.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

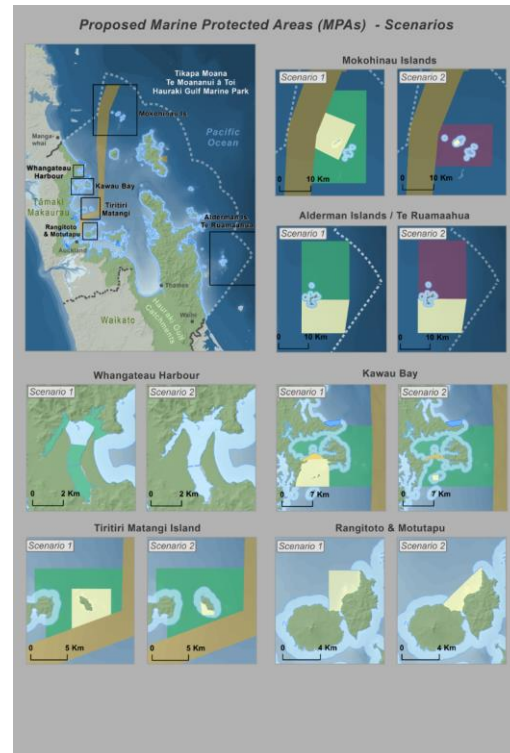
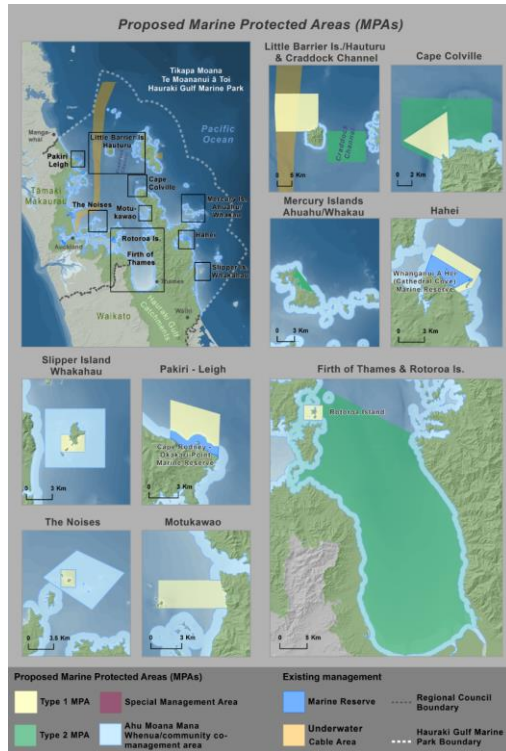


Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

WS4: Marine protection

- MPAs are a significant contributor towards enhancing and restoring healthy functioning ecosystems and habitats and protecting and restoring species diversity and abundance.
- The Sea Change Plan proposed 15 MPAs. We are taking an evidence-based approach to build on that work using the best available science and information, and analysing the wider impacts of the MPA proposals.
- The Strategy will reflect our evaluation of the 15 MPAs proposed in the Plan, suggest any necessary alterations to those resulting from our analysis and engagement, and identify priorities, gaps and future opportunities.
- The Strategy will lay out a pathway for implementation and management of new MPAs.
- Proposed MPAs identified in the Strategy will undergo wider consultation as part of any required statutory processes.

WS4: Marine protection



- What did the Sea Change Plan seek:
 - A network of MPAs
 - A range of protection
 - Mana whenua and community involvement
 - 15 new MPAs
- What the Strategy is proposing:
 - Evaluation of the 15 MPAs to identify priorities, gaps and opportunities
 - A pathway for implementation and management for new MPAs

WS5: Protected species

- The HGMP is a globally significant seabird breeding habitat and nationally significant Bryde's whale habitat. The HGMP also contains nationally and internationally significant shorebird habitats.
- Ongoing predator-free status of offshore islands is essential for the survival of many seabird species
- The most significant pressures on shorebird habitats are from introduced predators, chronic disturbance, habitat loss due to coastal development and sea level rise.
- We are conducting a stocktake of marine protected species programmes operating within the HGMP to identify and validate gaps and develop proposals to address these/identify solutions and research priorities.

WS6: Ahu moana

- Mana whenua and local communities desire a stronger role in influencing how their local coastal areas are managed and involvement in formal decision-making.
- An iwi-community led local fisheries management/marine conservation based pilot (or pilots) will inform how government can support iwi-community groups to deliver agreed shared local outcomes and participate in decision-making.
- Pilots will inform development of an ahu moana framework exploring potential options to deliver local community objectives for local coastal areas, challenges and how to overcome these, and roles and responsibilities.
- The framework could be an additional tool taken up by local iwi and the community working together on a common goal for their local coastal area.
- The framework will consider existing marine management tools and recognise existing treaty rights, ongoing settlement processes and the need to meet Government's statutory obligations.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

WS7: Marine biosecurity

- Introduced marine species pose a serious threat to marine ecosystems throughout the HGMP.
- Through developing the Strategy we are seeking to ensure that marine biosecurity activities in the HGMP are optimised, especially in terms of coordination and support such as through the ‘Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership’.
- The rollout of the National Environment Standard for Marine Aquaculture later in 2020 and implementation of the Government’s National Aquaculture Strategy (2019) will strengthen biosecurity measures around marine farms in the HGMP.
- We will be continuing to work with iwi and marine restoration partners in the HGMP to identify issues and options to manage biosecurity risks related to marine restoration activities.

WS8: Governance

- Governance arrangements in and around the HGMP are complex.
- The Hauraki Gulf Forum, comprising local and central government, and mana whenua operates under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 2000.
- The scope of the Strategy does not include a review of the governance of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The Strategy will not be proposing governance recommendations but may propose options and principles based on previous reviews and information.
- Governance arrangements are likely to be a focus of future Treaty negotiations over harbours.
- Our work towards the Strategy will undertake a stocktake of current governance arrangements and frameworks in the HGMP to understand their interrelationships, identify principles and components of good governance, and identify high-level options for governance arrangements.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Next steps and providing further feedback

- Engagement feedback from key stakeholders and iwi will be used to inform the development of the Strategy over the coming months.
- Further information about our work toward developing the Strategy can be found on the MPI and DOC websites at:
 - <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/fisheries/our-fishery-management-initiatives/the-sea-change-marine-spatial-plan-for-the-hauraki-gulf/>
 - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/sea-change-hauraki-gulf-marine-spatial-plan/>

Some further questions you may wish to consider in providing further feedback are proposed in the Stakeholder Engagement Summary Paper.

Please email further feedback before 31th May 2020 to: seachange@doc.govt.nz