

**Fisheries New Zealand**

Tini a Tangaroa

To: Hon David Parker, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries**From:** Emma Taylor, Director Fisheries Management

Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Consultation

Date	8 December 2022	Reference	B22-0533
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Decision required	Date decision required by
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/>	15 December 2022

Purpose
This briefing seeks your approval to consult on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan and a decision on the consultation timeline.

Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)			
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Key messages

Developing a Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan is one of three key deliverables for fisheries management in *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change*.

The proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan (attached in **Appendix One**), which is New Zealand's first area-based fisheries plan under section 11A of the *Fisheries Act 1996*, sets out a holistic and cohesive fisheries management strategy tailored to the needs and challenges of the Hauraki Gulf and its communities.

It sets long term desired outcomes focused on environmental, sustainable utilisation and governance outcomes, which are complemented by new approaches for managing fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf. This includes an overall commitment to progress an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach in the Hauraki Gulf and actions to improve local abundance of fish stocks.

It has been in development since 2019. Input received from the Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee, iwi with interests in the region, key stakeholders and, most recently, the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group has helped shape the draft Fisheries Plan.

A key management action in the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan is the restriction of bottom trawl and Danish seine fishing to defined areas in the Hauraki Gulf, to better manage the adverse effects of this fishing gear on the benthic environment. There is significant interest in this work from stakeholders and tangata whenua and a desire to see rapid progress on this. Fisheries New Zealand is working to consult on options for these areas by mid-2023.

Supporting an accelerated timeframe for implementation of the *Revitalising the Gulf* marine protection proposals (B22-0681 refers) required that Fisheries New Zealand reprioritise resources. This, and the high level of interest and input into the plan, has affected progress on finalising the Fisheries Plan for consultation and on work to implement trawl corridors.

Fisheries New Zealand is seeking your approval to publicly consult on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan and your decision on the consultation timeframe. There is an option to align consultation on the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan with consultation on options for trawl corridors, however this will delay consultation on the Fisheries Plan.

Following consultation, Fisheries New Zealand will review submissions and provide you with final advice.

Background

1. *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan* (Revitalising the Gulf) was announced by you (the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries) and the former Acting Minister of Conservation, in June 2021. It is a package of integrated marine conservation and fisheries management actions to improve the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf.

2. Developing a fisheries plan for the Hauraki Gulf is one of three key deliverables for fisheries management in *Revitalising the Gulf*, alongside establishment of a Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (AM22-0132 refers) and development of a Fisheries Indicators and Monitoring Framework.
3. A draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan (the Fisheries Plan) was prepared during development of *Revitalising the Gulf*. This was informed by feedback from the Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee alongside an initial round of engagement with iwi and key stakeholders between June 2019 and September 2020. This draft was included as an appendix to *Revitalising the Gulf* which was released in June 2021.
4. In 2021, Cabinet agreed that further engagement with iwi and stakeholders was required to progress development of the Fisheries Plan prior to public consultation.
5. Since the release of *Revitalising the Gulf*, Fisheries New Zealand has held a second round of engagement with iwi and established the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (Advisory Group), which has had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Fisheries Plan.
6. A summary of the engagement with iwi and points discussed is provided in **Appendix Two** and a summary of feedback received from the Advisory Group is included in **Appendix Three**.
7. Following this engagement, Fisheries New Zealand have refined the plan where appropriate. The draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan is attached in **Appendix One**.

The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan

Section 11A Fisheries Plan

8. Under section 11A of the *Fisheries Act 1996* (the Act), you may approve a fisheries plan for one or more fish stocks, fishing years or areas, or any combination of these. Once approved, a fisheries plan becomes a mandatory relevant consideration when exercising powers under the Act and may include fisheries management objectives to support the purpose and principles of the Act and strategies to achieve these objectives.
9. If approved, the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan will become New Zealand's first area-based fisheries plan under the Act.

Fisheries Plan Overview

10. The draft Fisheries Plan outlines a holistic and integrated local scale fisheries management strategy tailored to the needs and challenges of the Hauraki Gulf and its communities.
11. It includes targeted measures to manage benthic fishing impacts, improve information and monitoring of fisheries, help restore locally depleted stocks and improve tangata whenua and local community participation and engagement in the management of fisheries and their near-shore coastal areas. These measures will integrate with other measures set out in *Revitalising the Gulf* including the marine protection proposals and Ahu Moana, to help restore the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf.

12. The Fisheries Plan also emphasises the need to work closely with other agencies to manage the impacts of land-based stressors on the Hauraki Gulf and management actions seeking to address this have been strengthened in response to significant feedback on this issue during engagement.
13. The Fisheries Plan is split into two parts; **Part A** and **Part B**. **Part A** describes the overall strategic direction of the Fisheries Plan, including three long-term desired outcomes, that will provide guidance to the management of fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (the Hauraki Gulf) over the next five years.
14. The three long term desired outcomes are focused on environmental, sustainable utilisation and governance outcomes, which are complemented by new approaches for managing fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf, including an overall commitment to progress an ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) approach in the Hauraki Gulf.
15. **Part B** is the part of the Fisheries Plan that will become a mandatory relevant consideration when exercising powers under the Act and contains the management objectives or interdependent goals and management actions or discrete steps that will be taken to achieve the objectives using the tools and associated regulations under the Act, where appropriate.
16. The decision to split the Fisheries Plan into two parts was made following consideration that the Fisheries Plan is being approved pursuant to section 11A of the Act and as such is bound by the purpose and principles of the Act and it is operationally practical to clearly indicate the part of the Fisheries Plan you must take into account when making decisions under the Act.
17. The desired outcomes represent aspirational and long-term vision statements for managing fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf, for example Desired Outcome two in the draft Fisheries Plan is "*Fisheries resources are at levels which meet the needs of Treaty partners and stakeholders*". By including them in Part A of the Fisheries Plan they provide guidance to the implementation of the management objectives and management actions in Part B of the Fisheries Plan but there is not a statutory requirement to take these into account in your decision-making.
18. When *Revitalising the Gulf* was launched last year several stakeholders voiced concerns that developing a fisheries plan would delay implementation of management actions. To mitigate these concerns Fisheries New Zealand integrated key components of the Fisheries Plan into its 2021-22 work programme. For example, work to exclude bottom contact fishing methods from the Hauraki Gulf except for within defined access areas and a review of scallop fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.
19. Fisheries New Zealand is currently working to finalise options for areas where bottom trawl and Danish seine can continue to occur, which will be consulted on in the first half of 2023. The Advisory Group will meet in March 2023 and discuss these options prior to consultation.

Progressing some management actions requires subsequent regulatory processes

20. Implementation of some of the management actions (such as those looking to exclude bottom contact fishing methods from the Hauraki Gulf except for within defined areas) include a regulatory component and will therefore be subject to statutory processes.
21. This is highlighted in the Plan, and will be reiterated during consultation on the Fisheries Plan, to ensure it is clear that the Fisheries Plan does not predetermine the outcome of a statutory process. Seeking approval of the Fisheries Plan under section 11A of the Act signals a strong commitment to progress these actions. However, the Plan will be amended should the signalled regulatory changes not proceed.

Feedback received on the draft Fisheries Plan

Input and participation of tangata whenua

22. To provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua, Fisheries New Zealand, alongside the Department of Conservation, invited iwi with interests in the Hauraki Gulf to engage on two separate occasions:
 - a) During development of *Revitalising the Gulf*.
 - b) Following the launch of *Revitalising the Gulf* between October 2021 and April 2022. Twenty-eight iwi with interests in the Hauraki Gulf were invited to engage individually, and 12 of the 28 iwi chose to engage. Overall, the discussions were largely positive.
23. Fisheries New Zealand also separately invited Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIOs) to engage between the beginning of July and early August 2022. Fisheries New Zealand held a successful hui with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whatua, however, the remaining three MIOs did not participate.
24. The focus of engagement for Fisheries New Zealand was to hear views on the proposed management actions in the draft Fisheries Plan and the extent to which they deliver to iwi aspirations and respond to critical issues for fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.
25. Feedback on the Fisheries Plan centred on the following ten key themes:
 - a) The voice of iwi.
 - b) Resourcing and monitoring capability.
 - c) Management of the recreational sector.
 - d) Understanding fish forage species and interconnectedness.
 - e) Impacts of bottom contact fishing and bulk harvesting.
 - f) Mātauranga being held alongside Western science.
 - g) Funding for recreational fisheries monitoring.
 - h) Sedimentation and water quality.
 - i) Education.
 - j) Other issues.
26. A summary of iwi feedback received and how it has been considered or addressed in the draft Fisheries Plan, is attached in **Appendix Two** and there was broad agreement across most themes.

27. A key point of difference however was on management actions to address the benthic impact from bottom trawl and Danish seine fishing. Nearly all iwi we engaged with, except one, did not support the continuation of bottom trawling or Danish seining in the Hauraki Gulf.
28. Fisheries New Zealand will circulate a summarised version of this feedback to iwi prior to the start of public consultation.

Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group

29. The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) was established in May 2022 (AM22-0132 refers) and it has since met in person four times to review and discuss the draft Fisheries Plan.
30. The group has provided a number of recommended changes, most of which focused on refining the Fisheries Plan's wording to better clarify management intent. Fisheries New Zealand has considered the group's recommended changes and incorporated them where appropriate. A summary of the Advisory Group's feedback and Fisheries New Zealand's response is provided in **Appendix Three**.
31. Whilst there are some points of difference amongst members on aspects of the Fisheries Plan; notably the approach to managing the adverse effects of bottom-contact fishing on the benthic environment (with the recreational and environmental representatives favouring complete removal over time), and whether the Hauraki Gulf should be a separate Quota Management Area, overall feedback from the Advisory Group has been positive.
32. The Advisory Group members have also reviewed a draft of this briefing to ensure their feedback has been accurately summarised and communicated to you.
33. The Advisory Group has also discussed the proposed approach and next steps on work to restrict bottom trawl and Danish seine fishing to discrete areas in the Hauraki Gulf, these discussions will continue in the new year.

Finalising the Fisheries Plan for public consultation

34. Following engagement with iwi and review by the Advisory Group, Fisheries New Zealand have worked to finalise the draft Fisheries Plan for consultation, including amendments to the Fisheries Plan to ensure technical accuracy and alignment with other Fisheries New Zealand work programmes.
35. *Revitalising the Gulf* outcomes will be achieved through integrated conservation and fisheries management actions. Supporting an accelerated timeframe for delivering the *Revitalising the Gulf* marine protection proposals has required reprioritisation of Fisheries New Zealand resourcing (B22-0681 refers). This has affected progress on the development of the draft Fisheries Plan and the proposals to manage bottom contact fishing in the Hauraki Gulf.

36. Concerns have been expressed by a number of stakeholders on the delays to consultation on the Fisheries Plan, including the Environmental Defence Society (EDS), who are represented on the Advisory Group. Some stakeholders requested consultation on the draft Fisheries Plan commence prior to Christmas. Similar concerns regarding delays have been expressed throughout development of *Revitalising the Gulf* and its subsequent implementation; stakeholders are keen to see urgent action to reverse the environmental decline in the Hauraki Gulf.
37. Separately, the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council (also represented on the Advisory Group) have signalled a strong preference for consultation on the Fisheries Plan to not occur over the Christmas period and to align with consultation on options for trawl corridors. In response to this, Fisheries New Zealand is looking at ways to accelerate implementation of the trawl corridors work and has included an option to align consultation on options for trawl corridors with the draft Fisheries Plan in the next section.
38. Fisheries New Zealand anticipates a high level of interest in the draft Fisheries Plan, particularly on management actions relating to mobile bottom contact fishing methods, including trawl corridors, from the recreational and environmental sectors.
39. Of note LegaSea has recently led the formation of the 'Hauraki Gulf Alliance', a collaboration between a number of environmental and recreational fishing organisations. An online petition has been circulated calling for the complete removal of Danish seining, bottom trawling and dredging from the Hauraki Gulf.

Options for public consultation

40. Considering this feedback Fisheries New Zealand has explored two options regarding timing of consultation on the Fisheries Plan, outlined below. We are seeking your decision on these options.

Option 1 Consultation on draft Fisheries Plan only

41. Consultation on the draft Fisheries Plan would commence on Monday 16 January and close on Friday 3 March 2023. This would avoid consultation over the Christmas period.
42. This would respond to the concerns expressed by a number of stakeholders, including members of the Advisory Group, on delays to implementation of the Fisheries Plan.
43. s9(2)(g)(i)

Option 2 Consultation on draft Fisheries Plan alongside options for trawl corridors (preferred option)

44. Consultation on the draft Fisheries Plan would occur alongside consultation on options for trawl corridors. This would commence in April for a period of 6 weeks.

45. s9(2)(g)(i)



Next Steps

46. If you agree to public consultation on the draft Fisheries Plan, Fisheries New Zealand will release the attached draft Fisheries Plan for public consultation, following your decision on the option for consultation.
47. Should you wish to brief your Cabinet colleagues on the proposed public consultation, officials will work with your Office to provide appropriate material.
48. A communication plan has been developed to support public consultation on the Fisheries Plan. It includes messaging on topics that may arise during public consultation, including the management of mobile bottom contact fishing. Following your decision on the option for consultation, key messages in the communications plan can be strengthened to support the approach taken.
49. Post consultation, Fisheries New Zealand will review submissions and make any amendments to the Fisheries Plan in response to submissions. Final advice on the Fisheries Plan, seeking your decision on whether to approve the Fisheries Plan under section 11A of the *Fisheries Act 1996*, will then be provided to you. Implementation of the trawl corridors will involve a process to make regulations under the Fisheries Act.
50. Fisheries New Zealand will then work with tangata whenua and the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group to develop an annual operational plan to support implementation of the Fisheries Plan for the 2023/24 financial year. This will involve a prioritisation process to ensure Fisheries New Zealand operates within available resourcing.

Recommendations

51. It is recommended that you:

- a) **Note** the feedback from tangata whenua and the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan.

YES / NO / NOTED

- b) **Agree** to one of the following options to publicly consult on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan:

Option 1: 16 January - 3 March 2023, independently of the trawl corridors work

YES / NO

Option 2: commencing April 2023, alongside consultation on options for trawl corridors

YES / NO



Emma Taylor
Director Fisheries Management

Hon David Parker
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

/ / 2022

Minister's comments

Appendix One: proposed Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan for consultation

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan

December 2022



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Ministers foreword

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1. Overview of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan

1.1 Purpose and scope

This Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan (the Plan) sets long-term outcomes to guide the management of fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park over the next five years. Management objectives and associated management actions describe the goals and discrete steps that will be taken over the next five years to achieve these desired

outcomes, using the tools and associated regulations under the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act).

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (herein referred to as the Hauraki Gulf) refers to the area of water with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Boundary as defined in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (Figure 1).

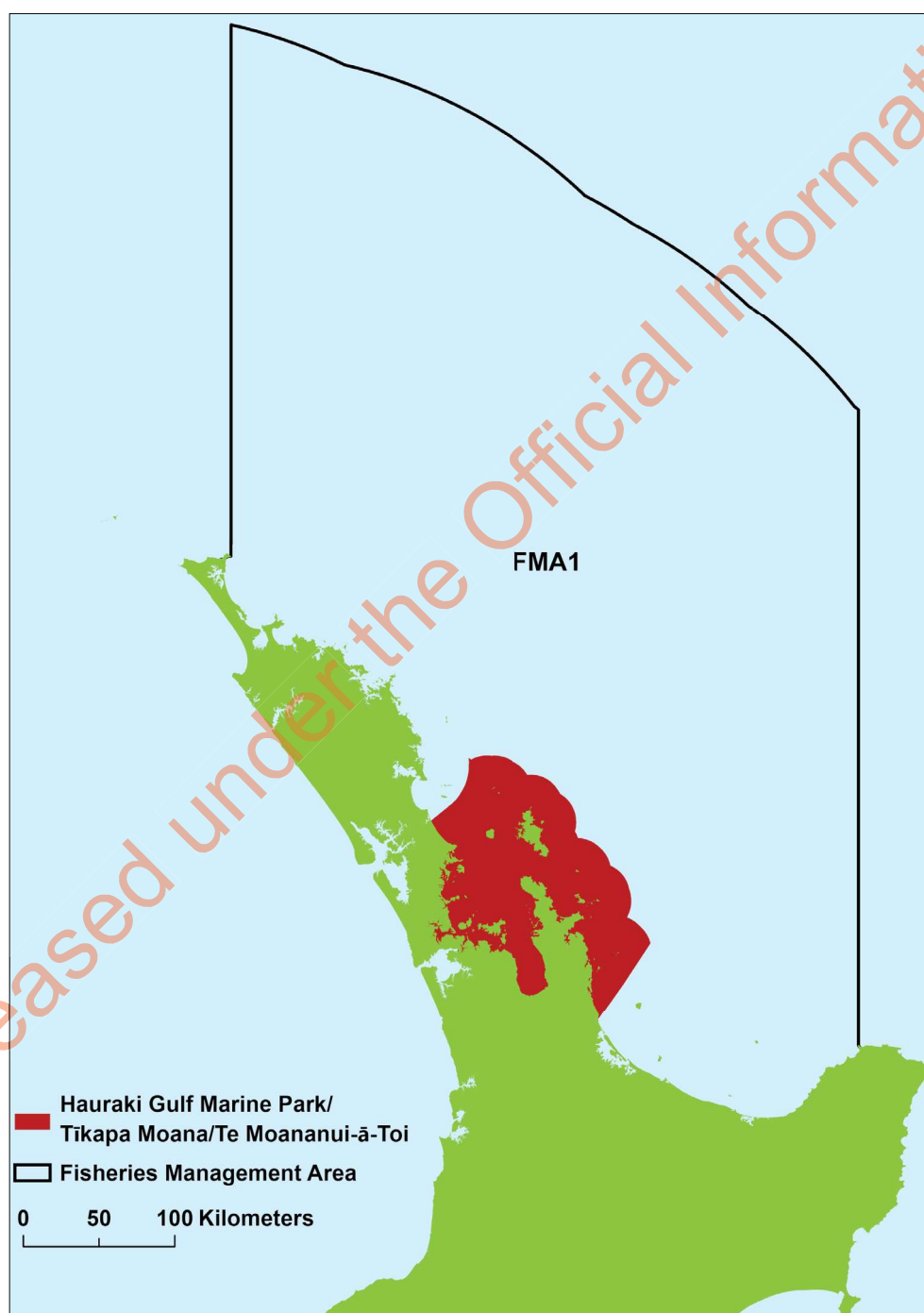


Figure 1. Map of Fisheries Management Area (FMA) 1 and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

1.2. Rationale

The Hauraki Gulf is as an area of special significance recognised by its designation as a marine park. The Hauraki Gulf's proximity to the largest population centre in the country means there is significant pressure on the park relative to the wider fisheries management area (FMA) in which it sits (Figure 1, page 3). These uniquely heavy pressures justify a new approach to fisheries management within the Hauraki Gulf: an area-based plan authorised under Section 11A of the Act.

1.3. Legal Status

This plan is to be an approved Fisheries Plan under s11A of the Act, and as such must be considered by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries (the Minister) before deciding to set or vary a sustainability measure or make any decision or recommendation under the Act to regulate or control fishing¹.

1.4. Structure of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan

This Plan consists of two parts. Part A outlines the Strategic Context and Framework that will shape and influence delivery of the Plan as well as the long-term desired outcomes sought by the plan. Part A should be viewed as guidance to the implementation of the Plan. Part B describes the Management objectives and Management actions, or the goals and discrete steps that will contribute towards achievement of the long-term desired outcomes.

Part B is the part of the Plan approved under section 11A of the Act by the Minister and is therefore a mandatory consideration for the Minister when setting or varying any sustainability measure under Part 3 of the Act or making decisions or recommendations to regulate or control fishing.

¹S11(2A)(b)

PART A:

Strategic context and framework



2. Strategic context

2.1. Strategies, Standards and Policies

There are strategies, standards and policies that provide direction on how obligations under relevant legislation will be met. Table 1 summarises those that have particular relevance to the management of fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.

The Plan's management objectives, management actions and annual planning processes are designed to be consistent with these strategies, standards and policies. Where there are specific actions that need to be undertaken to deliver on their commitments, these will be reflected in the management actions in this Plan and will inform prioritisation of management actions in the Annual Planning Framework (described in section 4).

Table 1: Key strategies, standards and policies in operation

Fisheries New Zealand Treaty Strategy	Developed and agreed with Iwi and Māori and provides for input and participation, and consultation processes to meet Treaty obligations and legislative requirements.
Harvest Strategy Standard	A policy statement of best practice for setting targets, limits and and/or thresholds for fishing mortality for fish stocks in the Quota Management System. It is intended to provide guidance on the application of fisheries law by establishing a consistent and transparent framework for decision-making to achieve the objective of providing for utilisation of New Zealand's Quota Management System species while ensuring sustainability.
Quota Management System Introduction Process Standard	Sets out a process for Fisheries New Zealand to identify stocks or species to be considered for Quota Management System introduction.
Regional Coastal Plans	Developed by regional councils to assist them to carry out their functions in order to achieve the sustainable management purpose of the Resource Management Act. Regional councils have the purpose of protecting biodiversity and this could include some controls on fishing activity, although this excludes controls on customary fishing conducted under regulations made under the Fisheries Act 1996.
National Plan of Action for Seabirds	Known as the NPOA-seabirds, and last reviewed in 2020, it sets out the New Zealand Government's commitment to reducing fishing-related captures and associated mortality of seabirds. It explains the rationale for the plan and then sets out what the plan intends to achieve, how the plan will be implemented and how its achievements will be measured and reviewed.
National Plan of Action for Sharks	Known as the NPOA Sharks, and last reviewed in 2022, it sets five-year goals and objectives, for maintaining the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations.
Snapper 1 Management Plan	Sets out a rebuild plan and a range of measures to increase the snapper population in the SNA 1 fishery.
Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan	Published in 2021, <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> is the Government's strategy in response to the call for action made by the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan. The development of Revitalising the Gulf was supported by advice from an independent Ministerial Advisory Committee and feedback received through iwi and stakeholder engagement. Revitalising the Gulf provides a roadmap for delivering fisheries management and marine conservation actions in the Hauraki Gulf.

2.2. Fisheries Change Programme

When the Quota Management System (QMS) was introduced it was seen as a bold and innovative system that set a new international standard for effective and efficient fisheries management. Aimed at conserving New Zealand's fisheries resources and improving the economic efficiency of the industry; the QMS continues to underpin how fisheries in New Zealand are managed, providing a foundation for fisheries management now and into the future. It is also central to the delivery of the redress to settle all Treaty claims in respect of fisheries managed under the Fisheries Act 1996 (and any subsequent legislation).

It is important that we continue to build on these foundations by ensuring fisheries management is effective, agile and can adapt to changing circumstances. Developments in technology and the understanding of Māori rights secured by the Treaty of Waitangi and settlement agreements, consumer expectations, and our scientific understanding of wild fisheries and the impacts of fishing on the wider aquatic environment are driving a need for continuous improvement.

The partnership between the Crown and tangata whenua in the management of fisheries and the importance of fisheries to providing economic, cultural and social outcomes for iwi is central to how Fisheries New Zealand manages fisheries. This is alongside the need to ensure our fisheries continue to be sustainable, deliver the greatest overall benefit to all New Zealanders, and that the management and utilisation of fisheries resources does not compromise the health of the marine environment. Equally, New Zealanders are demanding greater transparency and improved performance from our management systems, and at the same time, stakeholders and local communities want greater involvement in how local resources and the marine environment is managed.

Recent changes currently underway as a part of the Fisheries Change Programme have modernised the way we manage inshore fisheries. This includes several regulatory changes and introduction of new technologies, such as electronic catch and geospatial position reporting and on-board cameras that will improve the way we will

manage inshore fisheries. Additional legislative and policy changes are also being considered to ensure that fisheries management policy settings are right for the future. We are also exploring new approaches to managing fisheries at a local scale, evidenced by this Plan, New Zealand's first area-based fisheries plan, to manage fisheries within the Hauraki Gulf.

Supporting new, innovative and less environmentally damaging fishing methods and technologies has also been identified for further development. Facilitating advancement in these areas has the potential to improve selectivity and the quality of harvested fish, while reducing adverse impacts on incidentally caught fish, protected species and the wider marine environment.

Fisheries New Zealand is committed to continuing to adapt and improve our services to deliver better outcomes in the public interest. This will keep us abreast of advances being made internationally, and deliver enhanced outcomes from social, cultural, economic and environmental perspectives.

2.3. Advancing Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management

Further to the changes described above, this Plan adopts new approaches to advance ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) in the New Zealand context to the extent that this is compatible with the Act. This reflects trends in international best practice for fisheries management.

EBFM seeks to optimise benefits among a diverse set of societal goals while maintaining the productivity, resilience and sustainability of ecosystems. Importantly, it considers ecosystems as a whole, recognising the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among fisheries and associated components of the ecosystem, including people. It considers humans as integral parts of ecosystems and aims to integrate a wide range of values. In New Zealand goals and actions associated with achieving EBFM are also required to be consistent with the provisions of Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992.

The Act enables this ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. The environmental principles in

section 9 refer explicitly to the maintenance of associated and dependent species (defined in the Act as “any non-harvested species taken or otherwise affected by the taking of any harvested species”), maintenance of the biological diversity of the aquatic environment, and the protection of habitats of particular significance for fisheries management. Taken together these principles require decision makers to take into account the wider environment within which fishing occurs when making fisheries management decisions. This is within the preliminary provisions of the Act to act in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 and the broader purpose of the Act, in section 8, that refers to providing for the utilisation of fisheries resources while ensuring sustainability and the measures within the Act that support achievement of this purpose including section 11 sustainability measures and section 12 consultation obligations, including providing for the input and participation of tangata whenua.

Advancing EBFM, in a manner consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992, is expected to have a wide range of long-term benefits for the ecosystem and those that rely on and value it, including

tangata whenua, stakeholders, communities and decision-makers. Management decisions will be made with a better understanding of the interconnectedness of fisheries, the ecosystems that support them, and the communities that benefit from them. EBFM also facilitates more transparent distribution of benefits across users by balancing cultural, social, economic and ecological values.

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the New Zealand Government have made several commitments in relation to EBFM, both domestically and internationally, including in the Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and in Te Mana o te Taiao – The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020. This should also be considered alongside the range of other international commitments entered into by the New Zealand Government including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.



3. Strategic Framework

3.1. National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan and other fisheries plans

The National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan provides the strategic direction and overarching framework for the management of inshore finfish fisheries over the next five years (Figure 2).

It identifies key principles and priority focus areas that will guide fisheries management activities for inshore finfish fisheries. Management objectives then provide clarity and certainty as to how each of the focus areas will be achieved.

Key Focus Area 4 specifically describes actions to improve local fisheries which includes, implementing actions contained in *Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan* (of which this Plan is a key deliverable for fisheries management), developing a management framework and tools to support local area fisheries management and identifying, developing and trialling management tools, processes and systems to progress further development and implementation of EBFM.

Whilst the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan is a standalone document, it will adopt the same annual planning framework described in the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan, (also described in section 4 of this Plan). The National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan will also help

inform the prioritisation and implementation of the management actions and objectives in this Plan as they relate to inshore finfish, particularly those management actions that are national scale initiatives (denoted by an asterisk next to the relevant management action in section 7).

Where iwi fisheries plans exist within the Hauraki Gulf, delivery of management actions within them will be incorporated into the annual planning framework, at a regional Hauraki Gulf or national scale where appropriate.

The Ministry for Primary Industries also has legally binding protocols with iwi governance entities. These protocols focus on iwi participation in planning processes and the incorporation of the objectives set out in Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans into the planning and management framework. They also specify the principles which will apply when consultation is to be undertaken with those iwi governance entities. A full summary of protocols for the Hauraki Gulf is included in Appendix One.

3.2. Research Planning

Research needs will be identified through the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan annual planning framework described in Section 4. This research will feed into the national fisheries research planning framework and be subject to national prioritisation processes.

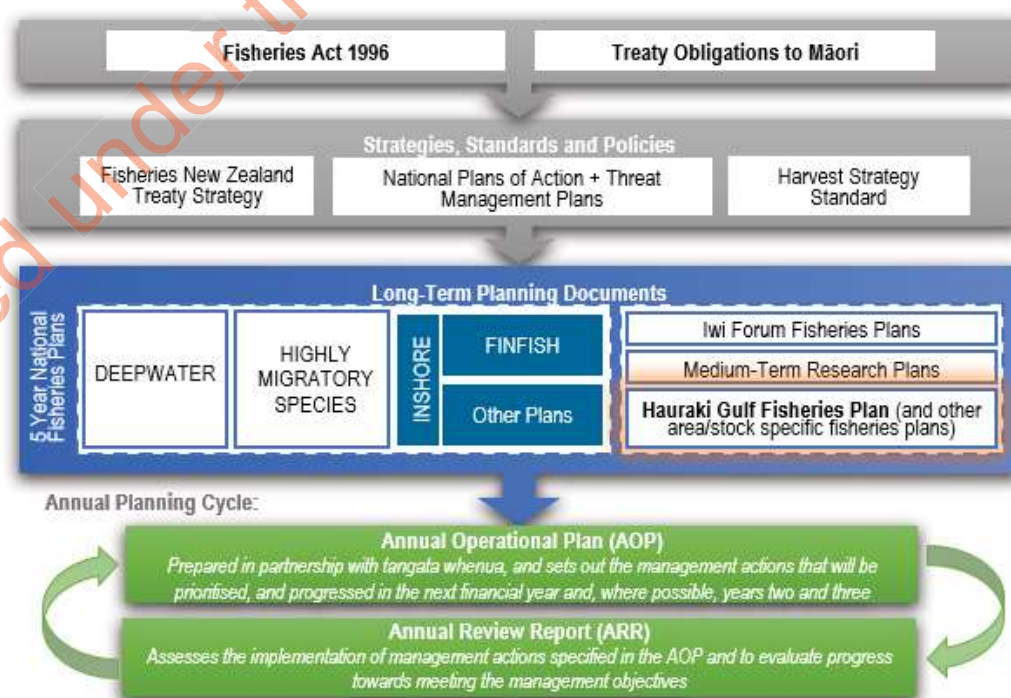


Figure 2. Situating the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan within the national fisheries planning framework

3.3. Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan management structure and desired outcomes

This Plan employs a hierarchical structure of desired outcomes, management objectives, and management actions (Figure 3). Each desired outcome has a set of management objectives or interdependent goals that must

be achieved to deliver the outcome and each management objective is underpinned by management actions; the specific and discrete steps that will be taken to achieve each management objective. These management objectives and management actions signal the focus for fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf over the next five years.

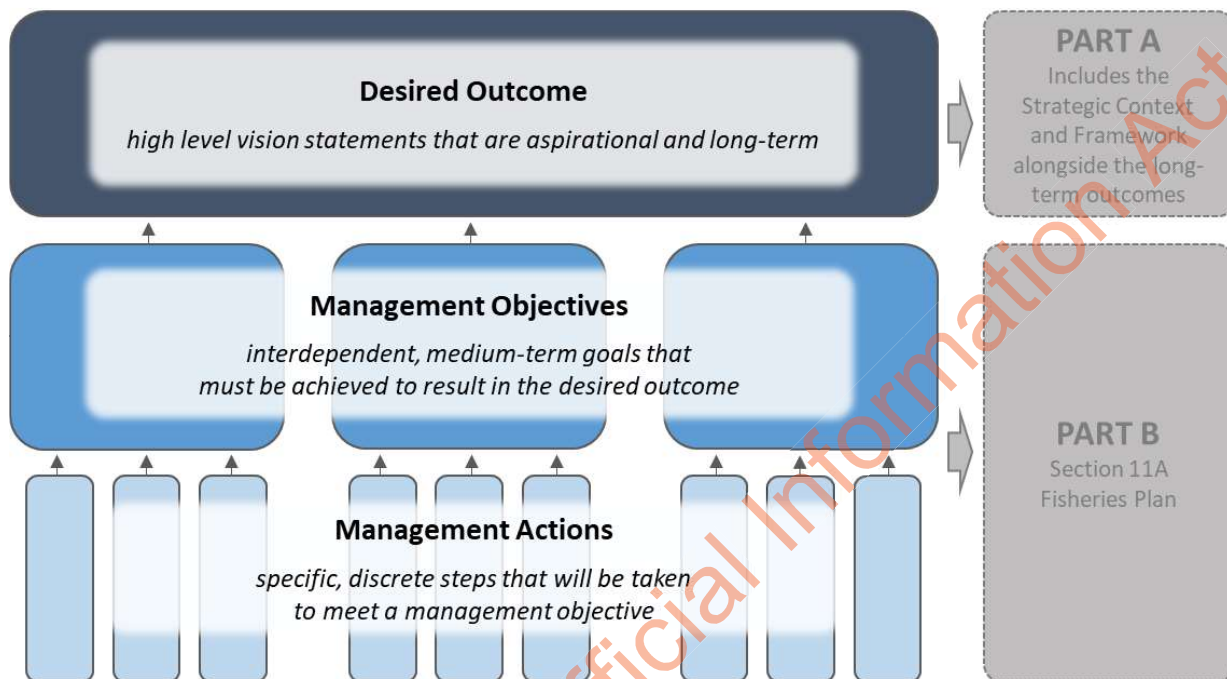


Figure 3. Hierarchical management structure showing the relationship between desired outcomes, management objectives and management actions

The Plan has three desired outcomes, described below, which encompass environmental, sustainable utilisation and governance outcomes. These are aspirational and long-term, high-level vision statements that together

represent the desired state of the Hauraki Gulf. They provide guidance for the setting and implementation of the management objectives and management actions.

1. Healthy, functioning aquatic ecosystems that support sustainable fisheries.

A healthy aquatic ecosystem is one that supports the ongoing biological productivity of its components and is resilient in the face of disturbance, providing for sustainable fisheries. Maintenance of biological productivity requires preservation of the interlinkages among species and their physical environment.

2. Fisheries resources are at levels which meet the needs of Treaty partners and stakeholders.

Fisheries resources are managed to customised abundance levels and abundance targets that account for the needs of those with an interest in the resources. For fisheries resources that are of importance to tangata whenua and the recreational sector at the regional Hauraki Gulf scale, higher targets may be appropriate.

3. Inclusive and integrated regional participation in the governance of fisheries.

Governance structures will support Fisheries New Zealand and tangata whenua to work in partnership on the setting of management objectives and management actions and prioritisation of resourcing and will provide greater opportunities for regional stakeholders to input into the management of fisheries resources, at the regional Hauraki Gulf scale. Coordination with the Department of Conservation, local and regional councils, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, and other government agencies will be integrated into fisheries management efforts for the Hauraki Gulf.

4. Implementing the plan

4.1. Statutory processes

Implementation of many of the management actions contained in the Plan will require statutory processes to be followed during implementation. Final decisions in relation to these management actions can only be made once these processes have occurred.

4.2. Annual Planning Framework

The Plan will be implemented using an annual planning framework (Figure 4.). This framework generates two key documents: The Annual Operational Plan (AOP); and the Annual Review Report (ARR). These will provide the vehicle to operationalise the management objectives and actions described in this Plan and enable efficiencies across broader inshore fisheries management services and annual planning, including that of the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan. Operational delivery of the Plan will also be underpinned by Treaty Partnership and will ensure obligations to Māori are met, including providing opportunities for tangata whenua input and participation. It will also provide for stakeholder engagement, including through the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (described further in section 4.6).

4.3. Annual Operational Plan

For each year of the Plan's lifecycle, an AOP will be prepared in partnership with tangata whenua, which sets out the management actions from this Plan that will be

prioritised, and progressed in the next financial year and, where possible, years two and three.

Fisheries New Zealand must operate within available resources, therefore management actions for delivery in an AOP will be prioritised each year. Priorities will be determined in partnership with tangata whenua and will be informed by advice from the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group, and through broader stakeholder engagement as part of the annual planning cycle to understand relative priorities, and gaps identified through the ARR.

4.4. Annual Review Report

An ARR will be prepared each year to assess the implementation of management actions specified in the AOP and to evaluate progress towards meeting the management objectives outlined in the Plan.

The ARR process also helps to identify gaps in performance and identify emerging issues for further analysis. This in turn informs the prioritisation of management actions for the subsequent AOP and the identification of new management actions for inclusion in the Plan.



Figure 4: Fisheries New Zealand Annual Planning Cycle

4.5. Annual planning with tangata whenua

Fisheries New Zealand has statutory obligations to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua and to engage with organisations and representatives of Māori, that hold or exercise Māori rights and interests in fisheries resources, in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

To meet those responsibilities Fisheries New Zealand has provided for the input and participation of tangata whenua in the development of the Plan and will provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua, at key points of the annual planning cycle, which includes:

1. sustainability measures;
2. the approval and amendment to fisheries plans;
3. decisions affecting customary non-commercial interests of tangata whenua;
4. Policy and management measures that affect fisheries; and
5. The prioritisation of management actions during annual planning processes.

4.6. Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group

Fisheries New Zealand has established a Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (Advisory Group) to discuss, provide advice and make recommendations on the prioritisation and delivery of management actions in the Plan to achieve the associated management objectives and desired outcomes.

This will include input into sustainability round prioritisation and management decisions, input into annual research planning and discussions on the management of the effects of fishing on the aquatic environment, as they relate to the Hauraki Gulf, whilst considering and where possible minimising unintended or negative consequences of decisions to areas outside of the Hauraki Gulf. The Advisory Group will also support a review of the Fisheries Plan in five years.

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to:

- serve as a collaborative forum to support finalisation of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, monitor its implementation and evaluate its success;
- facilitate cross-sectoral identification, discussion and development of solutions for fisheries management issues and research priorities in the Hauraki Gulf; and

- provide for the collation of multi-sector advice to support fisheries management decision-making and inform ministerial advice.

This Advisory Group does not replace obligations under the Act to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua or to consult with Māori representatives or organisations that hold or exercise Māori rights and interests. It also does not replace obligations to consult with persons or organisations having an interest in the fisheries or the effects of fishing on the aquatic environment in the Hauraki Gulf.

The Advisory Group will meet quarterly, and the meeting schedule will align with the annual planning framework and where possible with relevant iwi fisheries forum hui.

4.7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Fisheries New Zealand is collaborating with Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge to co-develop a suite of fisheries system indicators (covering ecological, environmental, economic, cultural, and social elements and management aspects) to monitor fisheries resources and associated aquatic ecosystems as well as measuring the performance and effectiveness of management actions in the Fisheries Plan.

This collaboration has engaged with tangata whenua and stakeholders in the Hauraki Gulf (including recreational and commercial fishers, individuals with environmental interests, scientists, Government and Council representatives) to capture core principles for the co-development of this proposal and, ultimately, the indicator suite. Together this collaboration will undertake a co-development process to generate an indicator framework and a report detailing how that framework was formed.

These indicators will have practical utility providing an understanding of how the health of the Hauraki Gulf has changed in response to the management actions contained within this Plan and other EBFM strategies.

5. Legislative Context

The key pieces of legislation relating to the management of fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf are the Fisheries Act 1996, the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 (the Settlement Act) and associated binding protocols, which set obligations around how Fisheries New Zealand will engage with iwi on management and planning processes, the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 (Māori Fisheries Act) and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000.

This Plan is underpinned by and operates in a way that is consistent with that legislation. However, annual planning and service delivery processes may identify management actions that require changes in legislation to better allow this Plan's objectives and the overarching outcomes to be met.

5.1. The Fisheries Act 1996 (The Act)

The Act establishes a broad framework for managing fisheries in New Zealand. The purpose of the Act is to provide for the utilisation² of fisheries resources while ensuring sustainability³. It is a statement of the overarching goal for fisheries management against which all decisions under the Act are measured.

Matters given effect to within the Act include:

- the application and administration of the QMS;
- measures that contribute to the sustainability of fisheries resources and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment;
- recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 and the creation of tools to provide for customary use and fishery management practices;
- allocation of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) among Māori customary, recreational, and commercial fishers.

In giving effect to the Act, decision makers are required to take into account environmental and information principles, and to act consistently with the Settlement Act and international obligations relating to fishing.

The Act outlines the laws that relate to the governance of fisheries resources and how they should be managed, and recognises New Zealand's international obligations relating to fishing.

5.2. Treaty of Waitangi Settlement obligations:

The Crown's obligations to iwi and Māori concerning fisheries and aquaculture arise through rights guaranteed by Article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi. Those rights are confirmed in the Deeds of Settlement between the Crown and Māori. These rights are further reinforced through the obligations specified in legislation, including the Settlement Act, the Māori Fisheries Act, individual iwi treaty settlement legislation and protocols arising from those settlements, and the Act. Nothing contained in a fisheries plan changes the Crown's obligations to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Settlement Act sets out how the effects of the settlement of Māori claims to fisheries relate to Māori fishing rights. It makes provision for non-commercial traditional and customary fishing rights and requires the Minister to consult tangata whenua, and to develop policies to help recognise the use and management practices of Māori in the exercise of Māori non-commercial fishing rights. In addition, any person making decisions under the Fisheries Act 1996 must act in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Settlement Act.

The obligations under the Fisheries Act require systems and processes to provide for input and participation of tangata whenua into sustainability proposals and consultation on such matters with Māori representatives. Decision makers must also have particular regard to kaitiakitanga when making decisions on sustainability measures for fisheries. Therefore this Plan uses input and participation from Iwi Fisheries Forums, as well as Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans, and engagement with representatives of Māori and organisations that hold or exercise Māori rights and interests in fisheries resources. These approaches are aimed at providing tangata whenua with opportunities to engage in fisheries management processes and to have decision makers give regard to kaitiakitanga and protocols.

The Māori Fisheries Act implements the agreements made in the Deed of Settlement. The Māori Fisheries Act also provides for the development of the collective and individual interests of iwi in fisheries, fishing and fisheries related activities. It does so in a manner that is ultimately for the benefit of all Māori, and to establish a framework for the allocation and management of settlement assets.

² Utilisation means conserving, using, enhancing, and developing fisheries resources to enable people to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being.

³ Sustainability means maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, and avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment.

5.3. Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 recognises the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park as being nationally significant. The purpose of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act is to:

- a. integrate the management of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, its islands, and catchments;
- b. establish the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park;
- c. establish objectives for the management of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, its islands, and catchments;
- d. recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and its islands; and
- e. establish the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

The (Fisheries) Act⁴ requires that, in setting or varying any sustainability measures in the Hauraki Gulf, the Minister takes account of s7 and s8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act. These sections recognise the national significance of the life supporting capacity of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and define management objectives for its protection, including the protection and enhancement, where appropriate, of the contribution of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf to the social and economic well-being of the people and communities.

5.4. Other Domestic Legislation

Other legislation which contributes to the management of the wider fisheries ecosystem include the:

- Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011, provides legal recognition and protection of customary interests in the common marine and coastal area, including through protected customary rights and customary marine title. Existing fishing rights are preserved as well as rights of access and navigation.
- Resource Management Act 1991 which is New Zealand's primary legislation for managing the environment, including air, soil, fresh water and coastal marine areas⁵.

- Wildlife Act 1953 which gives partial or full protection to all but one species of seabird; and
- Marine Mammal Protection Act 1978 which makes provision for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals within New Zealand waters.
- Marine Reserves Act 1971, which provides for the establishment of marine reserves which, aside from limited exceptions, exclude all forms of fishing.

⁴ S11

⁵ Although this excludes controls on customary fishing conducted under regulations made under the Fisheries Act 1996, as provided for in section 10(d) of the Settlement Act.

PART B:

Management objectives & management actions

The three desired outcomes, which encompass environmental, sustainable utilisation and governance outcomes, provide the strategic direction for the management objectives.

6. Management Objectives

Achieving healthy, functioning aquatic ecosystems that support sustainable fisheries:

Achieving healthy, functioning aquatic ecosystems that support sustainable fisheries:

- 1.1 Protect marine benthic habitats from any adverse effects of bottom contact fishing methods, to enable passive and active restoration that support ecosystem services.
- 1.2 Protect marine habitats, that have been identified as having ecological importance, from any adverse effects of fishing.
- 1.3 Mitigate the impacts of fishing on the marine food chain.
- 1.4 Reduce fishing-related deaths of non-fish and protected species, working towards zero deaths by 2050.

Working towards fisheries resources being at levels which meet the needs of treaty partners and stakeholders:

- 2.1 At the QMA level, ensure all harvested stocks of wild marine species are at or above target levels.
- 2.2 Address localised depletion of fisheries resources within the Hauraki Gulf.
- 2.3 Ensure appropriate allocation of shared stocks by improving characterisation of recreational and customary fisheries.
- 2.4 Decrease the mortality of undersized fish caused by all harvesting sectors and methods.
- 2.5 Ensure harvest of intertidal species is sustainable.

Achieving inclusive and integrated regional participation in the governance of fisheries:

- 3.1 Improve participation and engagement of tangata whenua and all stakeholders in fisheries management.
- 3.2 Support input and participation of tangata whenua in fisheries management planning and decision making and have regard to tangata whenua-led kaitiakitanga, tikanga and mātauranga Māori.
- 3.3 Increase capacity for tangata whenua and stakeholder participation in fisheries management.
- 3.4 Partner with others working to improve the condition of the Hauraki Gulf.

7. Management Actions

The management actions outlined below represent the specific steps that will be taken to contribute towards achieving the management objectives. Some actions, while relevant to the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, are not specific to the Hauraki Gulf and will be progressed at a national scale. These actions are denoted by an asterisk *.

7.1 Achieving healthy, functioning aquatic ecosystems that support sustainable fisheries.

Management Objective
1.1 Protect marine benthic habitats from any adverse effects of bottom contact fishing methods, to enable passive and active restoration that support ecosystem services
Management Action 1.1.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude bottom trawling and Danish seining from the Hauraki Gulf except within defined areas or “corridors”. [subject to statutory processes]
Management Action 1.1.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude recreational scallop dredging from the Hauraki Gulf. [subject to statutory processes]
Management Action 1.1.3* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund research into alternative methods for scallop harvesting.
Management Action 1.1.4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude commercial scallop dredging from the Hauraki Gulf, except within defined commercial dredging access areas that are informed by the commercial dredging footprint. Taking into account the April 2022 sustainability decision for SCA 1 and SCA CS, as well as the importance of high-density beds and other drivers of scallop recruitment. [subject to statutory processes]
Management Action 1.1.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate transition to alternative scallop harvest methods and enable innovation for other alternative harvest methods.
Management Action 1.1.6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support further data collection, model improvements and monitoring to improve the available information on benthic habitats and their distribution.
Management Objective
1.2: Protect marine habitats, that have been identified as having ecological importance, from any adverse effects of fishing
Management Action 1.2.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and implement protection measures and a monitoring regime for Habitats of particular significance for fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf, prioritising according to estimated level of risk.
Management Action 1.2.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with the Department of Conservation to implement marine protection proposals in <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> for the protection of habitats and biodiversity.
Management Action 1.2.3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the concept of Special Management Areas⁶ including consideration of appropriate gear restrictions and a reporting framework.

⁶ Special Management Areas are areas designated as protected for almost all species and habitats, while allowing for carefully managed and targeted sport fishing of several high value sport fish species under a ‘small volume, high value’ harvest regime.

Management Action 1.2.4

- Evaluate the benefits provided by the marine protection in the new Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill for supporting fisheries and ecosystem resilience in the face of changing climate.

Management Objective

1.3: Mitigate the impacts of fishing on the marine food chain

Management Action 1.3.1

- Scope and commission research to assess the impacts of forage fish (small pelagic species, such as pilchards) removals on the marine food chain in the Hauraki Gulf and any additional research that is required on more species and life stages.

Management Action 1.3.2

- Review the management settings of important forage species in FMA 1 as needed to ensure impacts of removals don't adversely affect the marine food chain in the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 1.3.3

- Advance scientific research on kina populations to improve understanding of the variation in their spatial distribution, density, and condition.

Management Action 1.3.4

- Facilitate the co-development of a kina management plan, which will also address the environmental impacts of kina barrens.

Management Objective

1.4: Reduce fishing-related deaths of non-fish and protected species, working towards zero by 2050

Management Action 1.4.1*

- Implement the NPOA-seabirds framework, continue to support the ongoing refinement, improvement, and uptake of seabird mitigation measures for commercial and recreational fishers.

Management Action 1.4.2*

- Devise policies and procedures for guiding Fisheries New Zealand's response to protected species bycatch⁷ notifications received through NFPS reports and, for seabirds, coordinate this process with the Department of Conservation Seabird liaison program.

Management Action 1.4.3

- Establish a system to enable reporting of protected species bycatch by recreational fishers.

Management Action 1.4.4*

- Implement a programme to better estimate recreational fishing protected species bycatch and the risk to the population. To be considered alongside Management Action 2.3.5.

Management Action 1.4.5

- Develop a work programme to address risks to protected species in the Hauraki Gulf focused on education, outreach and other measures targeted towards recreational fishers to reduce protected species bycatch.

Management Action 1.4.6

- Continue to support the black petrel working group.

Management Action 1.4.7

- Prioritise observer coverage on inshore bottom longline fishing trips that overlap with black petrel distribution until the wider rollout of onboard cameras on commercial fishing vessels.

Management Action 1.4.8*

- Implement the NPOA-sharks in the Hauraki Gulf.

⁷ Bycatch is defined as fishing-related incidental capture or mortality.

7.2 Working towards fisheries resources being at levels which meet the needs of treaty partners and stakeholders.

Management Objective

2.1: At the QMA level, ensure all harvested stocks of wild marine species are at or above target levels

Management Action 2.1.1

- Work with tangata whenua and stakeholders (recreational, customary, commercial, non-take) to determine their fisheries resource needs and priorities within the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 2.1.2

- Set management targets and TACs to achieve/restore abundance at stock levels necessary to support the needs and priorities identified in management action 2.1.1 and within an ecosystem-based fisheries management framework.

Management Action 2.1.3

- Identify and prioritise stocks or groups of stocks for management interventions. Input these recommendations to annual sustainability round and research prioritisation processes.

Management Action 2.1.4

- Support development of reference points for the Coromandel scallop fishery and work with industry to develop a long-term management strategy.

Management Objective

2.2: Address localised depletion of fisheries resources within the Hauraki Gulf

Management Action 2.2.1

- Define and develop criteria for localised depletion and for setting targets for recovery.

Management Action 2.2.2

- Collect data and/or initiate research to identify key stocks and areas that may suffer from localised depletion within the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 2.2.3

- For stocks at risk of localised depletion, develop criteria on a per-species or species group basis. Develop approaches for more responsive management within the park.

Management Action 2.2.4

- For key stocks utilised by all sectors that suffer from localised depletion, explore voluntary removal agreements with industry, combined with monitoring using new ER/GPR data.

Management Action 2.2.5

- For key recreational/customary stocks that suffer from localised depletion, review recreational bag limits (species-specific and mixed) and/or review bulk harvesting methods.

Management Action 2.2.6

- Review netting restrictions, to protect vulnerable reef species and other non-target species.

Management Objective

2.3: Ensure appropriate allocation of shared stocks by improving characterisation of recreational and customary fisheries

Management Action 2.3.1

- Review Amateur Charter Vessels reporting requirements for catch in FMA 1.

Management Action 2.3.2

- Develop approaches for Amateur Charter Vessel reporting to improve timeliness and accuracy of reported data. Identify options for data validation.

Management Action 2.3.3

- Integrate Amateur Charter Vessel data with aerial access and National Panel Survey harvest and effort estimates.

Management Action 2.3.4

- Work with tangata whenua and kaitiaki throughout the Hauraki Gulf to improve collection of and access to customary data.

Management Action 2.3.5

- Identify and implement options for improving catch and effort information for recreational fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.

(Options could include: increasing the frequency, specificity, or coverage of existing recreational surveys in the Park; creating a park-specific recreational survey; or exploring self-reporting. An angler registry for the Hauraki Gulf would provide a suitable reference frame).

Management Action 2.3.6

- Explore methods to increase funding for research to improve information on recreational fishing.

Management Objective

2.4: Decrease the mortality of undersized fish caused by all harvesting sectors and methods

Management Action 2.4.1

- Define trigger points for mortality of undersize fish that initiate a management response.

Management Action 2.4.2

- Review available data to evaluate the effectiveness of existing management measures intended to decrease the mortality of undersized fish caused by the commercial sector and respond accordingly.

Management Action 2.4.3

- Encourage recreational fisher groups to develop a 'move on' practice as to reduce incidental catch of snapper below the MLS.

Management Objective

2.5: Ensure harvest of intertidal species is sustainable

Management Action 2.5.1

- Update baseline knowledge of hard shore and soft shore intertidal⁸ species abundance, distribution and harvest.

Management Action 2.5.2

- Review management approach and settings of intertidal shellfish harvest on the hard- and soft-shore. This could include adoption of seasonal closures or novel approaches to better manage intertidal shellfish harvesting.

Management Action 2.5.3

- Support community efforts to monitor/restore intertidal species.

7.3. Achieving inclusive and integrated regional participation in the governance of fisheries

Management Objective

3.1 Improve participation and engagement of tangata whenua and all stakeholders in fisheries management

Management Action 3.1.1

- Facilitate the ongoing input and participation of tangata whenua in fisheries planning, prioritisation and management, through Hauraki Gulf iwi fisheries forums or other platforms.

⁸ Intertidal species of interest include those found on soft substrate, namely cockles and pipis, as well as those commonly found on hard substrate, including: crabs, limpets, starfish, periwinkles, whelks, barnacles, and cats eyes.

Management Action 3.1.2

- Maintain a collaborative Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group to provide opportunities for regional participation in fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 3.1.3

- Clearly communicate research prioritisation and sustainability round processes and identify opportunities to improve the early input and participation of tangata whenua on research prioritisation and planning and subsequent stakeholder input.

Management Action 3.1.4

- Identify and incorporate Mātauranga Māori and local knowledge in fisheries management decision making and, where appropriate, in fisheries science.

Management Action 3.1.5

- Alongside the actions under Management Objective 3.3, assist in the design and piloting of Ahu Moana projects for co-management of intertidal and nearshore environments.

Management Objective

3.2 Support input and participation of tangata whenua in fisheries management decision making and have regard to tangata whenua-led kaitiakitanga, tikanga and mātauranga Māori

Management Action 3.2.1

- Facilitate transition to customary fishing regulations (either Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998 or new regulation under s186 of the Act) and support iwi in efforts to establish mātaihai, taiāpure, rāhui and other customary tools.

Management Action 3.2.2

- Explore ways to support mātauranga Māori researchers to conduct relevant research of their own determination.

Management Action 3.2.3

- Develop a mechanism where mātauranga Māori can inform and support fisheries management decision making, including through the identification of fisheries and/or fishing grounds of particular importance to Māori.

Management Objective

3.3 Increase capacity for tangata whenua and stakeholder participation in fisheries management

Management Action 3.3.1

- Design a targeted outreach and communications strategy for fisheries stakeholders in the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 3.3.2

- Establish a fisheries science and fisheries management education programme.

Management Action 3.3.3

- Invite industry and iwi forum reps, kaitiaki and community stakeholders to attend the fisheries science education programme.

Management Action 3.3.4

- Support building tangata whenua capacity to participate in governance, management and monitoring of fisheries.

Management Objective

3.4 Partner with others working to improve the condition of the Hauraki Gulf

Management Action 3.4.1

- Build and strengthen relationships with councils to enable integrated management of complex issues that affect the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 3.4.2

- Collaborate with the Department of Conservation on efforts to develop, implement, and monitor marine protection proposals in Revitalising the Gulf. Further collaborate with the Department of Conservation to support monitoring within the Hauraki Gulf (see 1.2.2 and 1.2.4).

Management Action 3.4.3

- Support active participation in habitat restoration efforts and assist with the protection of these restoration sites, incorporating Mātauranga Māori where appropriate.

Management Action 3.4.4

- Encourage a whole-of-government approach to substantially reduce sedimentation and other contaminants that affect fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.

Management Action 3.4.5

- Support regional councils to adopt resource management measures to reduce sedimentation and other impacts on the Hauraki Gulf.

Appendix One: Summary of fisheries settlement protocols relevant to the Hauraki Gulf

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Fisheries New Zealand

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Appendix Two: Iwi feedback on the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan

Purpose

To provide a summary of feedback from iwi in the Hauraki Gulf during engagement on the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan between October 2021 and March 2022.

Summary of engagement feedback by topic

This feedback is summarised as a general synthesis of feedback heard from several iwi and Mandated Iwi Organisations. This is done in such a way to best express the opinions across a common topic before individual comments and insight provided by specific iwi is given. Contrary opinions, if any, are also highlighted. These opinions represent both customary and commercial interests.

Feedback has been grouped into the following topics:

1. The voice of iwi.
2. Resourcing and monitoring capability.
3. Management of the recreational sector.
4. Understanding forage fish species and interconnectedness.
5. Impacts of bottom contact fishing and bulk harvesting.
6. Mātauranga being held alongside Western science.
7. Funding for recreational fisheries monitoring.
8. Sedimentation and water quality.
9. Education.
10. Other issues.

Topic 1. The voice of iwi

General summary

Iwi desire to have their voice heard as tangata whenua and to have their rights under Te Tiriti upheld. Certain iwi have reservations about their voice being marginalised or underrepresented in the processes proposed in the draft Fisheries Plan.

Iwi also desire and need to be more involved in management and decision making as they are mana whenua and their voices need to be heard.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Fisheries New Zealand Response

Management actions to achieve desired outcome three in the Fisheries Plan are intended to provide for improved participation and engagement of tangata whenua in fisheries management. These management actions have been amended and strengthened in response to iwi feedback, to better address iwi concerns and support input and participation of tangata whenua in fisheries management decision making and have regard to tangata whenua-led kaitiakitanga, tikanga and mātauranga Māori.

Management actions related to the use of customary fisheries tools have also been strengthened in response to this feedback.

Fisheries New Zealand also now have dedicated support in the Hauraki Gulf to strengthen relationships with iwi in the Hauraki Gulf and improve existing frameworks to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua.

Topic 2. Resourcing and monitoring capability

General summary

Iwi believe they need to be adequately resourced and funded in order to achieve their monitoring goals. Iwi noted the need to adequate resourcing and that their lack of funding and support means they are unable to participate in management and respond to critical issues.

Rāhui is an important conservation tool for iwi, however, the general public needs to be better educated on what these mean. Rāhui is law for Māori yet many others do not see it this way potentially undermining the benefits afforded by traditional rāhui.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

Other comments:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

Fisheries New Zealand Response

We have strengthened management objectives to ensure fisheries decision-making and management is inclusive of tangata whenua and to provide support to tangata whenua-led kaitiakitanga and tikanga. This includes management objectives to increase capacity for tangata whenua participation in fisheries management, including a new management action that seeks to support building the capacity for tangata whenua to participate in governance, management and monitoring of fisheries.

Topic 3. Management of the recreational sector

General summary

Iwi expressed that more monitoring and management of the recreational and amateur charter vessel sector was needed.

Many iwi also expressed concern about the impacts particularly at a local level, and during peak seasons or weather windows.

Note: Several iwi have mentioned recreational licencing and taxation in order to achieve recreational monitoring and compliance, however, this was thought important enough to warrant a separate section (see section 6).

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

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Fisheries New Zealand Response

Fisheries New Zealand acknowledges the need for improved monitoring of the recreational sector. Following feedback from tangata whenua, management actions focused on improving the characterisation of non-commercial fisheries have been reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose including management actions seeking to improve amateur charter vessel reporting information. This resulted in the addition of a new management action seeking to explore ways to boost funding for research that will improve information on recreational fishing.

The commitment to explore different options to improve monitoring of non-commercial fisheries, such as an angler registry for the Hauraki Gulf, remains in the draft Fisheries Plan in response to this feedback from tangata whenua.

Topic 4. Understanding forage fish species and interconnectedness

General summary

Iwi share the view that there are many links between marine species; we need to better understand our forage fish species. The whole system needs to be considered when making decisions and we need to fully understand the complexity and interconnectedness of the marine food web. There may be abundance of some keystone species, however, forage species in an area may be lacking and this can be of concern to iwi.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Fisheries New Zealand Response

The draft Fisheries Plan proposes to scope and commission research to assess the impacts of forage fish removals on the marine food chain in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Management settings of these important forage fish species in Fishing Management Area 1 (FMA 1) will also be reviewed, and this management action has been strengthened to ensure forage fish removals do not negatively influence trophic dynamics in the Hauraki Gulf.

The draft Fisheries Plan also includes three long term desired outcomes focused on environmental, sustainable utilisation and governance outcomes, which are complemented by new approaches for managing fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf, including an overall commitment to progress an ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) approach in the Hauraki Gulf. EBFM recognises the interconnectedness of the marine system and all of its interactions through a holistic approach to management and recognises the complexity of natural systems.

Topic 5. Impacts of bottom contact fishing and bulk harvesting

General summary

Several iwi expressed a desire to restrict commercial bulk seafood harvesting and to see some or all bottom impact fishing banned from the Hauraki Gulf. This stems from a desire to stop overfishing, however, there is a view by some that to feed an ever-increasing population, there is a space for intelligent and targeted trawling in the Hauraki Gulf.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted text block containing multiple paragraphs of iwi views, with some lines indented by one or two spaces.]

Alternative views of iwi on this issue:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted text block containing alternative views of iwi, with some lines indented.]

Fisheries New Zealand Response

The draft Fisheries Plan proposes to exclude bottom trawling and Danish seining from the Hauraki Gulf except within defined areas. Commercial scallop dredging is also proposed to

be restricted from the Hauraki Gulf, except within defined commercial dredging areas that are informed by the commercial dredging footprint.

This commitment has not changed, despite feedback from tangata whenua primarily supporting a complete removal of these methods from the Hauraki Gulf. Fisheries New Zealand needs to carefully consider the impacts of displacement of fishing effort and ensure it doesn't shift pressure to new benthic environments or fishing grounds outside the Hauraki Gulf. Providing for continued use of these methods, within defined areas, will mitigate this.

Topic 6. Mātauranga considered alongside Western science

General summary

Almost all iwi engaged with expressed a desire to see mātauranga considered alongside Western science when making management decisions. They would like to see Māori scientists using mātauranga methods in research and also the immortalisation of the traditional knowledge of kaumatua and kaitiaki captured for future generations and for these kaitiaki to serve as an advisory board. Sometimes Western knowledge and science may be indicating one thing but mātauranga wisdom might indicate a different course or method.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

Fisheries New Zealand Response

Management Actions in the draft Fisheries Plan seek to identify and incorporate Mātauranga Māori and local knowledge into fisheries management decision making and, where appropriate, in fisheries science.

There is also an action to explore ways to enable Mātauranga Māori researchers to conduct research of their own determination and to develop a mechanism where mātauranga Māori can inform and support decision making in fisheries management.

The Fisheries Indicators and Monitoring Framework, which is being co-developed with tangata whenua, will support monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of management actions in the Fisheries Plan and also looks to consider mātauranga Māori alongside Western science in the development of the indicators and the supporting framework.

Topic 7. Funding for recreational fisheries monitoring

General summary

Most iwi engaged with expressed a desire to see better monitoring and greater understanding of the recreational sector. In order to facilitate this outcome, there was a view held by several iwi that registration and licencing of vessels, as well as taxes on fishing gear and boat sales to help fund monitoring and enforcement capabilities might help to achieve this.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Fisheries New Zealand Response

The proposed Fisheries Plan seeks to identify and implement options for improving recreational catch and effort information within the Hauraki Gulf – some options for this include exploring self-reporting and an angler registry. In response to feedback from tangata whenua a new management action has been included seeking to explore new methods to increase research funding to further improve information on recreational fishing.

Topic 8. Sedimentation and water quality

General summary

There is a general concern that key management and conservation measures will not fix sedimentation issues in areas such as the mouth of the Waihou river. Sedimentation is of concern to iwi, as is general water quality and rising sea temperatures. Some iwi believe that terrestrial inputs and land use should be more tightly monitored and regulated; councils and other local wards keep acting in isolation and there needs to be a consideration of the larger picture.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Fisheries New Zealand Response

The proposed Fisheries Plan looks to build and strengthen relationships with regional councils to enable more integrated management of the complex issues that affect the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf, including land-based impacts. These management actions have been strengthened following feedback from tangata whenua including an increased focus on taking a whole-of-government approach to substantially reduce sedimentation and other contaminants that affect fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.

Other management actions include supporting regional councils to adopt resource management measures to reduce sedimentation and other impacts.

Topic 9. Education

General summary

Several iwi suggested that greater education of the public and boat owners is important in achieving their goals in the Hauraki Gulf. Some iwi also expressed a desire to see education of the public on rāhui, their efficacy and use to better affect outcomes.

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(b)(i)

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Fisheries New Zealand Response

Management actions in the draft Fisheries Plan are looking to progress a programme of work to address risks to protected species in the Hauraki Gulf. An element of this mahi would focus on education, outreach and other measures targeted at recreational fisheries to reduce protected species bycatch.

The draft Fisheries Plan also looks to design a targeted outreach and communications strategy for fisheries stakeholders in the Hauraki Gulf, as well as establishing a fisheries science and fisheries management education programme, and to invite industry and iwi forum representatives, as well as kaitiaki and community stakeholders to attend this programme.

Topic 10. Other issues

Specific views expressed by iwi:

- s9(2)(ba)(i)

Appendix Three: Summary of feedback from the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group

Background

The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group has reviewed the draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan over four meetings between May 2022 and November 2022 and prior to finalising the fisheries plan for consultation. Members provided a range of feedback and recommended changes to the Fisheries Plan, provided below. Specific recommendations for the management of benthic impacts, that the Advisory Group requested be included unabridged, and Fisheries New Zealand response, are provided below. A summary of all other feedback, with Fisheries New Zealand's response, is included in table 1.

Managing Benthic Impacts

Some members of the Advisory Group do not support the proposed wording in Management Objective 1.1 and its corresponding Management Actions and have suggested alternative wording with supporting rationale, which is outlined below. These views are supported by the following members:

- Rowan Ashton (New Zealand Sport Fishing Council)
- Tony Orton (New Zealand Charter Boat Association)
- Raewyn Peart (Environmental Defence Society)
- Geoff Keey (Forest and Bird)

Management Objective 1.1 Protect marine benthic habitats from any adverse effects of bottom contact fishing methods, to enable passive and active restoration to and support ecosystem services

Management Action 1.1.1

Exclude bottom trawling and Danish seining from the Hauraki Gulf except within defined areas or "corridors"– by the year 2025 through a supported transition, and in the interim limit these methods to small, designated corridors where the Minister, applying the information principles in section 10 of the Act, is satisfied that:

- adverse effects on benthic environments in designated corridors are avoided; and
- corridors are operationally feasible.

[subject to statutory processes]

Management Action 1.1.2

- Exclude recreational scallop dredging from the Hauraki Gulf.

[subject to statutory processes]

Management Action 1.1.3 (to be progressed at a national scale)

- Fund research into alternative non-mobile bottom contact methods for scallop harvesting.

Management Action 1.1.4

- Exclude commercial scallop dredging from the Hauraki Gulf by 2025 through a supported transition. In the interim, define ~~except within defined~~ commercial dredging access areas that are informed by the commercial dredging footprint, taking into account the April 2022 sustainability decision for SCA 1 and SCA CS, as well as the importance of high-density beds and other drivers of scallop recruitment.

[subject to statutory processes]

Management Action 1.1.5

- Facilitate transition to alternative scallop harvest methods and enable innovation for other alternative harvest methods.

Management Action 1.1.6

- Support further data collection, model improvements and monitoring to improve the available information on benthic habitats and their distribution.

The main differences between this wording and the original wording are:

- Management Action 1.1.1 – inserts a specified date of 2025 for the exclusion of bottom trawling and Danish seining from the Hauraki Gulf. The Advisory Group propose that the designated corridors would be an interim measure until this date.
- Management Action 1.1.3 - promoting the funding for specific research of non-bottom contact methods for scallop harvesting, as opposed to funding for research into alternative methods more generally.

- Management Action 1.1.4 – expressly refers to the complete exclusion of commercial scallop dredging from the Hauraki Gulf by 2025, using a supported transition. Commercial dredging would be an interim measure until this date.

The Advisory Group explanation of these proposed changes:

- Given the hierarchical nature of the Fisheries Plan, Management Actions should provide for the coherent implementation and achievement of Management Objectives. We [the Advisory Group] consider that Management Actions 1.1.1 and 1.1.4 fail to achieve coherent implementation of Management Objective 1.1 by providing for ongoing bottom trawling, Danish seining, and scallop dredging (albeit with a stated intention to limit their footprints).
- Healthy benthic habitats are a cornerstone of the productivity and health of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Mobile bottom-contact fishing methods such as bottom trawling, Danish seining and dredging have significantly altered benthic habitats in the Gulf, reducing benthic biodiversity, modifying species' interactions and removing nursery areas.
- The greatest effects are on low energy environments (including the resuspension of fine sediments) and biogenic habitats, with a key issue being the removal of larger, long lived, slow growing, fragile, erect, sedentary species, and associated habitat complexity. Impacted species groups include sponges, bryozoans, seaweeds, hydroids, polychaete worms, soft and hard corals, and horse mussels. There are some sponges which have a quick recovery period, however there are a large amount of sponges and corals (such as black corals), which can take over a century to recover, if they do at all. Re-suspension of fine sediments by trawling, Danish seining and dredging is also a serious concern.
- Green-lipped mussels are a particularly significant case for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, where commercial dredging for this species in the Firth of Thames and inner Gulf during the 1920s to 1960s eliminated an estimated 500 km² of mussel beds. These beds almost certainly provided fundamental 'ecosystem services' including water quality through their filter-feeding, significant increases in primary and secondary production (as shelter and growing surfaces for invertebrates and plants), nursery habitat for juvenile fish, and foraging areas for adult fish. There are similar concerns with the impacts of scallop dredging, with the recent collapse of scallop beds around the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and elsewhere.
- The continued operation of these fishing methods is causing ongoing chronic damage and preventing recovery of habitats of significance. A timebound transition of fishing methods that impact benthic habitat out of the Hauraki Gulf by 2025 was a central tenant of The Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Plan. This action remains critical to revitalising the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, yet the suite of management actions under Objective 1.1 fail to sufficiently deliver on this.
- We support the trawl corridors workstream **as an interim step** to achieving a complete removal of fishing methods that impact benthic habitat from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park; **not as a new status quo**. However, any interim trawl corridors need to meet the Management Objective under which the relevant Management Action sits, "*Protect marine benthic habitats from any*

adverse effects of bottom contact fishing methods". We are concerned that the current science project which will inform the identification of trawl corridors is not being undertaken with this objective firmly in mind.

- Appropriate levels of support should be provided to ACE Fishers to enable an equitable transition to techniques that do not damage benthic habitats and allow ongoing sustainable commercial utilisation. The progressive removal of mobile bottom contact methods such as bottom trawling, Danish seining and dredging that have negative effects on habitats out of the Hauraki Gulf is the most effective means of achieving the outcomes that people and communities of the Gulf are seeking. This approach:
 - Recognises the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf in accordance with sections 7 and 8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000;
 - Accords with the Purpose and Principles of the Fisheries Act 1996, including; avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment; and taking into account the protection of habitat of particular significance for fisheries management;
 - Is practical and achievable.

These members requested that this advice be forwarded to the Minister unabridged.

Fisheries New Zealand's Response

The Government has not committed to a transitional approach for bottom contact fishing methods. The Fisheries Plan guides the management of fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf for the next five years, at which point it will undergo a full review. Consideration of a full transition to alternative methods could be considered then.

There are also other management actions in the Fisheries Plan that are seeking to enable innovation for alternative harvest methods.

There is a commitment to provide, in line with the Fisheries Act, for ongoing utilisation of these methods in the Hauraki Gulf, within discrete areas. Areas where these methods can continue to be used will be carefully considered following assessment of the outputs of Fisheries Research Project ZBD2020-06 "*Exploring options for balancing fishing and habitat protection and recovery in the Hauraki Gulf*".

Table 1. Feedback from the Advisory Group and Fisheries New Zealand's response across other themes

THEME	FEEDBACK	FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSE
Management of scallop fishery	Members suggested that explicit recognition be given to the importance of high-density beds and other drivers important for scallop recruitment in management actions to address scallop dredging.	A note has been included in management action 1.1.4 explicitly acknowledging this.
Delivery timeframes	More broadly there was discussion from some members to include delivery timeframes for some key management actions.	Implementation of the Fisheries Plan will be delivered using Fisheries New Zealand's national annual planning framework. This will enable prioritisation of management actions for delivery each year in an Annual Operational Plan. An Annual Review Report will assess implementation of management actions and identify gaps and priorities for implementation in subsequent years.
Resourcing implementation of the Fisheries Plan	There was concern from members that current levels of resourcing within Fisheries New Zealand's Inshore Fisheries North team are insufficient to implement the management actions within the intended five-year period of the plan.	Fisheries New Zealand must operate within available resourcing. Delivery of actions will be prioritised in the annual operational plans to support achievement of <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> outcomes. This is demonstrated through the work already progressed to exclude bottom contact fishing methods from the Hauraki Gulf except for within defined access areas and the review of scallop fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf.
Splitting the Fisheries Plan into two parts	Some members disagree with the approach to split the plan into two parts, noting it is important that the desired outcomes are included in the statutory part of the Plan (Part B) because they provide substantive content to inform your decision-making process. They noted that making a decision on a management objective without having the outcome	The desired outcomes represent aspirational and long-term vision statements for fisheries management in the Hauraki Gulf and provide guidance for the implementation of management objectives and management actions in the Fisheries Plan.

THEME	FEEDBACK	FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSE
	<p>with which it is designed to achieve, in frame, does not make sense.</p> <p>They also assert that if you consider something outside the statutory part of the Fisheries Plan in your decision making then it will be open to legal challenge.</p>	<p>Whilst there is not a statutory requirement to take them into account, they can still be considered in your decision making.</p>
Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management	<p>There was suggestion that we can be clearer on how we intend to take an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach in the Fisheries Plan and how the Fisheries Act 1996 can allow for this, particularly section 9 and section 11.</p> <p>Members also considered it important that a clear definition of ecosystem-based fisheries management be included in the statutory plan made pursuant to section 11A of the Fisheries Act 1996 so that this has regulatory effect.</p>	<p>Including wording on ecosystem-based fisheries management in Part A of the Fisheries Plan signals an intent for this approach to guide implementation of the Fisheries Plan and it still enables consideration of an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach when taking into account the section 11A Fisheries Plan in your decision-making.</p> <p>Wording has been incorporated into section 2.3 in Part A of the Fisheries Plan that recognises that sections of the Fisheries Act 1996, such as section 8, 9, 10 and 11, support moving towards an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach.</p>
Improving information on recreational harvesting	<p>The draft Fisheries Plan suggests different options that could be explored to improve recreational catch and effort information. There was strong support in the group for improving recreational catch and effort information.</p> <p>The options proposed to support this included establishing an angler registry and self-reporting.</p>	<p>This was a strong theme throughout engagement with iwi on the draft Fisheries Plan; there was a very real desire to see improved monitoring and understanding of recreational fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf. The Hauraki Gulf is one of the most popular areas for recreational fishing in New Zealand. Fisheries New Zealand maintains that this justifies exploring new approaches to</p>

THEME	FEEDBACK	FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSE
	<p>There were mixed views on the benefits of these options, with some of the members not favouring these options due to the statistical unreliability of self-reported data.</p>	<p>characterising and understanding recreational activity in the Hauraki Gulf.</p>
	<p>Members also supported the introduction of electronic reporting for Amateur Charter Vessels.</p>	<p>Management action 2.3.2 signals the intent to develop electronic reporting for Amateur Charter Vessels.</p>
<p>Desired outcome 3: Inclusive and integrated regional participation in the governance of fisheries</p>	<p>Members proposed re-wording, and re-organising management structure to reflect current context and signal broader level of intent at the level of the management objective.</p> <p>They recommended consolidation and strengthening of the tangata whenua-led fisheries management section, and addressing the connection with other government agencies, particularly on the management of land-based impacts on the marine environment, including sedimentation and nutrient run-off.</p>	<p>All recommended changes have been taken on board, with adjustments to placement of two management actions to make management objective 3.1 focused on participation, and management objective 3.3 focused on capacity building.</p>
<p>Being more directive in management action wording</p>	<p>For a number of management actions there was suggestion to make the wording more directive by shifting language for example from “explore” to “implement” or from “mitigate” to “ensure”.</p>	<p>There needs to be acknowledgement that where actions contained in the Fisheries Plan contain a regulatory component, Fisheries New Zealand has statutory obligations to consult on the regulatory proposal before final decisions are made. This limits ability to adopt this language for some of the actions. However, some actions reflect a Government commitment which may enable more direct language (management action 1.1.1) versus others (management action 1.4.9).</p>

THEME	FEEDBACK	FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSE
		<p>Some wording has not been changed to ensure consistency with the Fisheries Act 1996, for example mitigate versus ensure.</p>
<p>Options for addressing localised depletion</p>	<p>Members proposed removing reference to voluntary agreements when considering options for addressing localised depletion and including wording on setting sub-QMA catch limits.</p> <p>They considered the management action in the draft plan to address localised depletion of shared fisheries, “<i>explore voluntary removal agreements with industry</i>”, lacks any legal backing and depends on voluntary action from industry.</p> <p>Members of the group representing the recreational sector expressed concerns that it will not be possible to address localised depletion if there is no legal ability to control how much fish is removed from the Hauraki Gulf. For this reason, these members sought that the Hauraki Gulf should be a separate Quota Management Area as per the recommendations of the Sea Change Plan which would enable the setting of catch limits within the Hauraki Gulf. For example, <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> states in relation to SNA 1:</p> <p>“The next stock assessment update for SNA 1 will start in 2021 and will assess the three sub-stocks within the SNA (East Northland, Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty) separately. When reviewing the results, FNZ will work with the proposed multi-stakeholder Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan Advisory Group to determine whether further consideration for subdividing the SNA 1 fish stock, to create a quota</p>	<p>The ability to set sub-QMA catch limits is not enabled in the Fisheries Act 1996. Fisheries New Zealand has therefore kept the voluntary wording.</p> <p>Fisheries New Zealand will maintain the commitment made in <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> to further consider the benefits of sub-dividing the SNA 1 Quota Management Area into sub-stocks during the next SNA 1 review (likely timing is October 2024).</p> <p>Sub-dividing a Quota Management Area is a complex process with specific legal requirements and it is the view of FNZ that the biological characteristics of a stock must underpin justification for such a change.</p>

THEME	FEEDBACK	FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSE
	<p><i>management area for snapper in the Gulf, is warranted."</i></p> <p>A separate Quota Management Area for appropriate stocks is considered by the members representing the recreational sector to be critical to addressing localised depletion, and the potential for this measure should be expressly stated in the Fisheries Plan.</p>	
Considering Climate Change	Members supported more explicit reference to consideration of climate change resilience in the Fisheries Plan, particularly in desired outcome 1.	Included a new management action to evaluate the benefits provided by the marine protection proposals for supporting ecosystem resilience in the face of a changing climate.
Consistent use of terminology	Ensure consistent use of terminology such as "protect," "suitable," and "adverse", and consistency with the Fisheries Act 1996.	Final review of the Fisheries Plan has been completed to ensure wording is consistent.