

AT A GLANCE

# State of our Gulf 2023

Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi  
State of the Environment Report 2023



**Hauraki Gulf  
Marine Park**  
Ko te Pātaka kai  
o Tikapa Moana  
Te Moananui-ā-Toi



**Hauraki Gulf Forum**  
Tikapa Moana  
Te Moananui-ā-Toi



# HE KUPU TAKAMUA

## Foreword

The Hauraki Gulf is a taonga. It is our ancestor, playground, and pātaka kai. And it's in trouble.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui-ō-Toi, spans some 14000 km<sup>2</sup> from Te Arai to Waihi. It is the seabird capital of the world, home to resident tohorā, and around 2 million people live by its shores. The State of the Gulf 2023 is, ultimately, a story about us. About our impact on the Gulf. About our slow but steady destruction of one of the great ecosystems on earth.

However, we may be finally starting to turn a corner. Thanks to mana whenua and local communities, the Gulf is, for the first time in over 100 years, scallop-dredge free. Other forms of seafloor-impact fishing are reducing. Riparian planting of waterways leading into the Gulf is proceeding at pace. Billions are being invested in stopping sewage and stormwater outflows. And we are on the cusp of seeing long overdue new marine and seafloor protection areas.

At the same time, the Gulf is never static. Climate change has well and truly arrived. Marine heat waves, invasive seaweeds, more frequent storms, and acidifying waters all pose serious new threats to the health of the Gulf. This underscores the vital importance of rebuilding a resilient Gulf, a biodiverse Gulf, an abundant Gulf.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is committed to that better future.

Ngā mihi, nā

**Nicola MacDonald**  
*Co-Chair Tangata Whenua,  
Hauraki Gulf Forum*  
August 2023

**Toby Adams**  
*Co-Chair,  
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August 2023

Sunrise at Te Whanganui A Hei / Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve 📷 Shaun Lee

Cover: Dead tipa / scallop shell 📷 Shaun Lee

# Te whakarā- popoto a te kaiwhaka- haere

*'Kia mau ki te kōura nui'*

*Whāia ngā hua  
whaitake, tēnā i te whai  
i ngā hua iti noa. <sup>1</sup>*

# Executive summary

*Kia mau ki te koura roa.*

*'Hold on to the big crayfish'*

*Aim for worthwhile results  
rather than settling  
for small gains. <sup>1</sup>*

He motuhake Te Pātaka Kai o Tīkapa Moana. Ko tāna he whakahaumako i te ao o te tangata. Ko tā mātou he tākaro, he kaukau, he hī ika, he whakataetae ki ōna wai. E hihiko nei mātou i te tirohanga ki ōna whenua me te kaha kōrure o tōna hanga.

Nā ōna aihe, nā ōna tohorā, nā ōna mangō, nā ōna whai me ērā atu momo ika. Nā ngā kōura me ngā wheke i tōia mai i ōna wai. Nā ngā manu o te moana, ngā manu o uta me ngā manu o te wao mōrea i hoki ake i te taparere o korehāhā.

E koa ana mātou ki te mahi tahi ki te whakahaumanu i te kanorau koiora o te whenua me te moana. E pōuri tahi ana hoki mātou i te wā ka tāmate, ka mate rānei ōna taonga motuhake.

Kei ōna takutai ko te whaitua o te tāone nui rawa i Aotearoa me ngā ara whānui o ngā pāmu haumako. He hirahira ōna wai matāwhanga mō te tauhokohoko ki tēnei whenua, arā, ko Tāmaki Herenga Waka tēnā, ko ētahi atu tauranga, herenga waka iti hoki ēnā.

He wāhi e nōhia ana, e mahingia ana, ā, e tautoko nei i ngā hinonga ā-arumoni, ā-tūnuku anō hoki. Me mārama, me whakahaere hoki ngā hononga tuatini pīroiroi o Te Pātaka Kai, o ōna

motu me ōna hopuwai hei pupuri, hei tiaki, hei whakapai ake rānei i ōna wāriu mō ake tonu atu.

Ka whakawhiti Te Pātaka Kai i ngā whaitua, i ngā mana ā-rāngai, i ngā rohe whenua, i ngā rohe wai, me ngā ahurea. Nā konā, me pāhekoheko ngā whāinga me ngā rautaki a ngā rōpū whakahaere.

Koinei te whakaputanga tuawhito o te pūrongo, o Te Āhua o Tīkapa Moana. He mea whai i ngā pūrongo putuputu o mua e whaiere nei ki te mate haere, ki te tāmate haere o te taiao me ngā kupu paremata koretake ki ngā raru maha e pā nei ki Tīkapa Moana.

Hāunga te kaha o te taumaha ki Tīkapa Moana, ko tā te pūrongo nei, kei te kainamu tātou ki te tīmatanga o tētahi wāhanga hou i te pūrākau mō Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tīkapa Moana.

Ko te āhua nei kua tata rite tātou ki te tuku i ngā panonitanga hirahira hei whakapai ake i ngā putanga ā-kanorau koiora, ā-taiao hoki.

I te 2021, ka tukuna e te Kāwanatanga ā-Motu *"Te Whakamāuitanga o Tīkapa Moana: Tā te Kāwanatanga i te Rautaki Huri Moana"*, ā, mai i taua wā, e āta kōkiri whakamua nei te whanaketanga mai o tētahi

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is special. It enriches people's lives. We play, swim, fish, and compete in its waters. We are invigorated by its vistas and constantly changing nature. By its dolphins, whales, sharks, rays and other fish life. By the kōura and octopus pulled from its waters. By seabirds, shorebirds and endangered forest birds brought back from the brink. We happily work together to restore island and marine biodiversity. And we are mutually saddened when its special values are degraded or lost.

Its shores contain Aotearoa's largest metropolitan area and extensive tracts of productive farmland. Its coastal waters are of great importance to commerce in this country, containing the Port of Auckland, and many smaller ports and marinas. It is lived in and worked in and supports commercial enterprises and transport.

The Marine Park, its islands and catchments have complex inter-relationships that need to be understood and managed, to ensure that their values are maintained, protected

or enhanced in perpetuity. The Marine Park crosses territorial and departmental jurisdictions, land and water boundaries, and cultures. It is therefore essential that the objectives and approaches of management organisations are integrated.

This is the seventh State of Our Gulf report. It follows a succession of previous reports expressing concerns about environmental loss, degradation and inadequate responses to many of the issues impacting the Gulf.

While pressure on the Gulf remains high, this report suggests we may be close to starting a new chapter in the story of the Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Hauraki Gulf. We appear to be on the cusp of delivering important changes to improve biodiversity and environmental outcomes. In 2021, Central Government released *"Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan"*, and since then, has been inching towards the development of a management plan that is tailored to the Gulf's fisheries, and implementing a

rautaki whakahaere e hāngai pū ana ki ngā ika o Tīkapa Moana, me te uruhi i tētahi kaupapa e rangiwhāwhā ake ai te hora o Ngā Taiāpure Whakahaumarū i Tīkapa Moana.

Ka whai tēnei i ngā mahi kua aua atu i te ngahuru tau e mahia nei e te Rūnanga, e ngā iwi, e ngā rōpū hapori huhua, me te hunga takitahi.

Ā, kua ono tau ināianei mai i te tukuhanga o Tai Timu Tai Pari – Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan, i tau ai he aratohu e nanaio nei ki te whakaranea i ngā whakamaru me te whakaheke i ngā pānga hī ika i te Moana.

Heoi, kāore tonu ngā hua i te tino mōhiotia.

Ā, e kore hoki e mōhiotia kia kāhiti rā anōtia ngā MPA kua marohi, kia tūtohia, kia uruhia he mahere ika hei tautiaki, hei whakaora hoki i te pūnaha hauropi o te Moana.

Ko ētahi atu panonitanga nui he pitomata ō roto hei whakapiki i ngā putanga ki te Moana he mea karawhiu nā:

**te Mana whenua me ngā rōpū hau kāinga** — te whakahaumanutanga o ngā papa kūtai, ko te tono kia whakataiāpuretia te Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Waiheke ki te uru mā raki), ko te rāhui, me te rārangi porotutuki roa mō ngā motu o te Moana e whakatauirā nei i ngā mahi tōtika e pahawa ana i ngā mana whenua me ngā hapori.

**Te pūnaha whakawā** — e hia pīra ā-kōti kua hura mai i ngā hapa tūāpapa o te whakaū i ngā ture rawa me ngā ture ika.

Nā ngā whakatau ā-kōti o nāia tata nei i whakakorea ai ngā taupā nui hei whakahaere i te whānuitanga o ngā pānga ā-taiao i te hī ika, kua tau hoki ngā take e pā ana ki te tika o ngā pārongo e whakamahingia ana ki ngā tatūnga mō te ika, ā, kua whai māramatanga mō ngā whakahauanga whakaaro me ngā pairuri hononga-kore ki ngā tatūnga ika.

**Ko ngā pae whakawā motuhake** — he nui ngā hua o ngā whakawākanga whakaaetanga rawa taiao.

Hei tauira, o ngā tono e toru kia unua ngā one i Pākiri, e rua i whakakāhoretia e ngā kaikōmihana, ā, ko tētahi whakaaetanga i whāiti.

Kua pīrahia ēnei tatūnga nā reira kāore te whakatau whakamutunga e mohiotia mō tētahi wā.

**Ngā kaupapa tūāhanga nui** — e koke nei a Te Puna (Taumata Arowai) i āna mahi hanga i te Ara Koti Wai Para, me te whai kia 80% te heke o te rōrahi rerenga wai o ia tau i te hopuwai ara koti wai para rā, hei hāpai i te ngaruru o te taupori o Tāmaki Makaurau, e manawaroa ai hoki ngā wāhanga mōrea o te pūnaha parakaingaki.

proposal to significantly grow the coverage of Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf.

This comes after more than a decade's effort by the Forum, iwi and numerous community organisations and individuals. And it is now six years since the release of Tai Timu Tai Pari – Sea Change Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan, which provided an ambitious roadmap for increasing protection and reducing fishing effects in the Gulf. Yet, outcomes are still far from certain. And they won't be until the proposed MPAs are gazetted, and a fisheries plan that protects and enhances the Gulf ecosystem is adopted and implemented.

Other notable changes with the potential to improve outcomes in the Gulf have been driven through direct action by:

#### **Mana whenua and local communities**

— the restoration of mussel beds, an application for the Hākaimangō-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve, rāhui, and the long list of achievements on the islands of the Gulf are great examples of where direct actions by mana whenua and communities are producing change.

**The judicial system** — multiple court appeals have identified fundamental flaws in the application of resource and fisheries regulation. Recent court decisions have eliminated key barriers to the management of the broader environmental effects of fishing, ruled on the matters related to the adequacy of information being used in fisheries decisions, and provided clarity about mandatory and irrelevant considerations in fisheries decision making.

**Independent hearing panels** — major resource consent hearings have had consequential outcomes. For example, commissioners declined two of three Pākiri sand extraction consent applications, and gave the other limited approval. These decisions have since been appealed so the final decision will not be known for some time.

**Major infrastructure projects** — Watercare Services is well into its construction of its Central Interceptor, which is expected to reduce average annual overflow volumes in the central interceptor catchment by 80%, help cater for Auckland's ongoing population growth, and provide resilience to at-risk sections of the sewer system.





Te whakarērere waka ki Whitianga e rua rā i muri i te Huripari Gabriele. 📷 Avon Hansford

Sailing in Whitianga two days after Cyclone Gabriele 📷 Avon Hansford

Heoi, nā ngā take o inā tata nei i kitea ai ngā mōreareatanga me ngā tohu kino ā-hauropi e whakamātautia nei e tātou.

Ko te katinga ohorere te mahinga tipa tērā, ko te putu taunakitanga e pā ana ki te hekenga o ngā kai a ngā kaikonihī matua tērā, ko te taenga mai o te *Caulerpa* rāwaho tērā, arā, he riha moana kino rawa atu, ā, ko te pānga kikino o te hauota ki Tikapa Moana-o-Hauraki hoki tērā. He tohu nui ēnei whanaketanga kino kua eke te wā, me panoni.

Kei reira hoki te māramatanga ehara te āhuarangi hurihuri i te raru tūrehurehu nō anamata. He tūturu. Kua tae mai. Ka mutu, he nui ngā whakaputanga o āna pāpātanga, me te aha, kātahi anō ērā ka tīmata.

He take ā-ao te āhuarangi hurihuri, ā, he parekura te hua ki tēnā rohe, ki tēnā whenua. Nā ngā tūāhua i te tīmatanga o te 2023, e kitea ana, e tōkeke ai ngā rongoā, me nui ake te haumi i te pūtea, i ngā rawa, i ngā kaimahi me te ārahitanga ā-tōrangapū. He mōrearea rawa te nohopuku, ka mutu, ko tātou ka noho hei utu ki te tawhitawhi te urupare.

Ko te mea whakarapa kē, tē taea te tiaki te Moana mai i te pikinga pāmahana me te oreore māriri o te ao nei.

I tōna tikanga ka mahana ake, ka renga ake, ka waikawa ake, ā, ka hē kē atu ngā wai o te Moana.

Ka mōrearea ake ngā hīrangī, ka kaha ake te karawhiu o ngā āwhā, ka waipuketia te whenua, ā, ka kino kē atu te ngāhorohoro o ngā ākau.

Ka whakaekeka mai ko ngā momo pūrū hou tae ana ki ngā riha me ngā tahumaero, ā, ka neke whakatetonga ētahi momo māori. Ka taea e tātou te mahi e mārohirohi ake ai a Tikapa Moana ki te āwhā te haere mai nei, mā te whakapai ake i te hauora o te pūnaha hauropi o te Moana.

Heoi anō, me whāwhai te mahi, me whakanui ake hoki.

Ko ngā kaupapa Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe hei panoni i te āhua whakahaere hī ika ki te Moana me te whakarite Taiāpure Whakahaumarū hou ētahi tino rongoā whai tikanga, ka mutu, he iti noa te utu.

Ko te pātai nui, mēnā rānei ka pahawa i ngā whakapōreareatanga tōrangapū.

E tika ana te kōrero, he tino uaua te whakahaere i ngā matū tāoke ki uta, ina koa te whakaputa mai o te parakiwai i ngā tūāhua huarere taikaha.

Ko tā tātau i kite ai i ngā āwha o te tīmatanga o 2023 ko ngā whenua i whenuku, i haruwai hoki i te wai, ka tanuku noa.

Ka ikia ngā kāinga, kōreparepatia ana ngā rori, ā, he awa paruparu i katoa atu ki te moana. Ka haukerekerea ngā kōtuinga waipara, me te aha, katoa ērā atu matū tāoke ka kawea atu ki te moana.

Nā konā tirohia anō ai e tēnei pūrongo ngā paetohu taiao matua, ā, ka tiroiro hoki ki ngā panonitanga o ngā tau e toru kua pahure. Kei raro iho nei te whakarāpopototanga o ngā kitenga matua mō ia paetohu.

However, recent events have underscored the precarious nature of the situation and the ecological tipping points we seem intent on testing. These include the recent emergency closure of the tipa (scallop) fishery, growing evidence about reduced food availability for top predators, the arrival of exotic *Caulerpa*, another serious marine pest, and adverse effects of nitrogen on the Firth of Thames. These negative developments underscore that change cannot come soon enough.

There is also the realisation that climate change isn't some abstract future problem. It is real. It has arrived. Its impacts are highly consequential — and they are just getting started.

Climate change is a global issue with catastrophic, local consequences. Events since the beginning of 2023 demonstrate that resilient solutions are going to require a huge investment in cash, resources, labour, and political leadership. The risks of inaction are now too great to delay our response.

Unfortunately, the Gulf cannot be shielded from the effects of a warming, more energetic planet. The waters of the Gulf are expected to get warmer, more turbid, more acidic, and more contaminated. We can expect lethal heatwaves, stronger storms, land inundation, and increased coastal erosion. We can also

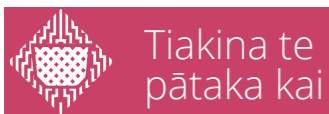
expect an resurgence of new subtropical species, including pests and diseases, and the southward shift in some native species.

We can increase the resilience of the Gulf to the coming storm, by improving the health of the Gulf ecosystem. But we must act quickly and at scale. Central Government proposals for changing how fishing is managed in the Gulf, and to create new Marine Protected Areas are an important part of the solution and will cost comparatively little. The big question is whether politics will get in the way of their implementation.

Dealing with land-based contaminants is arguably much harder, particularly for the sediment generated during extreme weather events. As the storms of early 2023 demonstrated, ground that was weakened and saturated by water simply collapsed. Homes were devoured, roads ripped apart, and a river of mud was carried into the sea. Wastewater networks were quickly overwhelmed and all manner of other contaminants were washed into the sea.

It is against that background, that this report relooks at key environmental indicators and examines changes over the past three years. A summary of key findings for each indicator is provided below.

# He whakarā- popototanga i ngā panonitanga mai i te tau 2020



## Te mahi hī ika

E ōrite ana te maha o ngā ika e hīa ana mō te tauhokohoko te take. Ko te tapeke o ngā haonga ika ā-arumoni i te takiwā toru tau o nāia tata nei ko te 21,000 t. Ko te tawatawa me te tāmure ngā momo matua e hīa ana i Te Pātaka Kai. He ōrite ngā whiwhinga tāmure, engari e 22% te hekenga o te whiwhinga tawatawa i ngā tau e toru kua pahure.

He mea nui (te 69%) te ngaringari o ngā whiwhinga ā-arumoni i te whai repo i te takiwā toru tau kua pahure.

Kua heke haere te whakamahia o ngā tikanga arumoni e oia nei te papamoana, e 27% te harahara o ngā puhoro papamoana, ā, e 21% te harahara o ngā haonga Teina i te takiwā toru tau o nāia tata nei.



Whai repo / He pākaurua nō Aotearoa ki Te Kohuroa  
📷 @Benthics / Frances Dickinson



Te takunetanga o Whakangākaitia a Hauraki  
📷 Echo Valley / Greenpeace

## Ngā taiāpure whakahaumarū

Kua tohua mai e te Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe tāna e whai nei kia nui noa atu āna mahi ki te whakapiki i ngā whakamarumarutanga ki Te Pātaka Kai. I marohitia e Te Papa Ātawhai kia 12 Ngā Rohe Matua Hei Tiaki, kia rima Ngā Rohe Papamoana Hei Tiaki, ā, kia whānui kē atu ngā taiāpure e rua o Te Pātaka Kai. Kua marohitia e Tini a Tangaroa te herenga o te puhoro papamoana, te hao ā-Teina me te hirou ā-rēhia hoki i te tipa ki ngā wāhi kua tautuhia, te aukatinga o te hirou ā-rēhia i te tipa, ā, te whakahekenga hoki o ngā pānga o te hī kaimoana iti rawa me ngā momo ika tē whāia, me te whakatau rohe hauropi hirahira.

E taea ana e ngā mahere kaunihera ā-rohe te whakatau ngā pānga a ētahi mahi hī ika. Ināia tata nei kitea ai e Te Kōti Pira tā te Ture Whakahaere Rawa (RMA) taupā kore i te āheinga a ngā kaunihera ā-rohe ki te whakahaere i ngā mahi hī ika, ā, kāore i te hī ika mō ngā take e herea nei e te Fisheries Act (1996) (Fisheries Act). Inakuanei waihangatia ai e Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Moana a Toi me Te Kauhinerā ā-Rohe o Te Tai Tokerau he āpure hī ika-kore nā ā rātou Mahere hei whakamarumarū i ngā wāriu kanorau koiara e hirahira ana. Kāore anō kia whakataungia ērā ritenga ā-ture ki Tikapa Moana.

## Te toitūtanga rāngai ika

Kua pai haere ngā mōhiotanga mō te tūāhua o ngā kōputu ika, engari kei reira tonu ngā āputa. Kua aromatawaihia te tūāhua o ngā kōputu ika pakihau 10 o te 20<sup>a</sup> (e rua atu anō i ērā i te pūrongo o mua).

Ko ngā kōputu o ētahi momo ika me whakahou. I matapaetia, kei raro iho ngā kōputu o te tāmure, o te tarakihi hoki i ngā paetae whakahaere i ngā mahinga ika. I uruhia ētahi whakahekenga hauhake arumoni anō mō te tarakihi i te tau 2022, ā, e whai ana kia haumanu anō te kōputu ki ngā taumata paetae.

E mānenei ana ērā atu kōputu (te tuna, te kahawai, te araara, te tīkati, te kumukumu, te kuparu, te tope me te haku) i ngā taumata paetae.

He iti rawa ngā pārongo e taea ai te tūāhua o ngā rōpū e whitu (te tawatawa, te kanae raukura, te hauture, te hokarari, te makō, te parore me te pātiki) te whakatau.

E toru o ngā momo 20 (ā-taumaha) e hauhake arumoni nei kāore i te momo rahinga-kore (te pukeru, te whai repo, me te nohu) nō reira, kāore anō kia whakatauria te toitū o ngā tepe hao.

# Summary of what's changed since 2020



## Fishing

We are taking a similar quantity of fish commercially. The total reported commercial catch of fish in the most recent three-year period was around 21,000 t.

Tawatawa (blue mackerel) and tāmure (snapper) continue to be the two main species caught in the Marine Park. Tāmure landings are similar, but tawatawa landings have decreased by 22% over the past 3 years.

A notable (69%) increase in the commercial landings of whai repo (eagle ray) in the past three-year period.

The use of commercial methods that disturb the seabed have declined, with 27% fewer bottom trawls and 21% fewer Danish seines conducted in the most recent three-year period.



Whai repo / New Zealand eagle ray in Mathersons Bay  
📷 @Benthics / Frances Dickinson



Show Your Heart for the Hauraki event  
📷 Echo Valley / Greenpeace

## Marine Protected Areas

Central Government has signalled its intent to take significant actions towards increasing marine protection in the Marine Park. The Department of Conservation has proposed 12 High Protection Areas, five Seafloor Protection Areas, and the extensions of two marine reserves in the Marine Park. Fisheries New Zealand has proposed to restrict bottom trawling and Danish seining to defined areas, exclude commercial scallop dredging from the Hauraki Gulf (except within defined commercial dredging access areas), ban recreational tipa dredging, reduce effects of fishing on undersized and non-target species, and important ecological areas.

Some fishing effects can be addressed through regional council plans. The Court of Appeal recently found that the Resource Management Act (RMA) does not prevent regional councils from controlling fishing activities through their RMA functions, provided they are not doing so for Fisheries Act (1996) (Fisheries Act) purposes. Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Northland Regional Council have recently created new no-take fishing areas under their Plans to protect significant biodiversity values. Such regulatory tools are yet to be applied in the Gulf.

## Fish stock sustainability

Knowledge about the status of fish stocks has improved, but gaps remain. The status of 10 of the top 20<sup>a</sup> finfish stocks have been assessed (two more than the previous report).

Stocks of some fish species need rebuilding. Tāmure and tarakihi stocks were estimated to be below fisheries management targets. Additional commercial harvest reductions for tarakihi were implemented in 2022, and the rebuild of the stock towards target levels is expected over time.

Other stocks (skipjack tuna, kahawai, araara (trevally), tīkati (gemfish), kumukumu (gurnard), kuparu (John dory), tope (school shark) and haku (kingfish)) are fluctuating around target levels.

Insufficient information is available to determine the status of seven types of fish (tawatawa (blue mackerel), kanae raukura (grey mullet), hauture (Jack mackerel), hokarari (ling), makō (rig), parore, and pātiki (flatfish)).

Three of the top 20 species (by weight) commercially caught are non-quota species (mirror dory, whai repo (eagle ray), porcupine fish) so sustainable catch limits have not been set.

<sup>a</sup>. Mā te rōrahi hauhake ā-arumoni

<sup>a</sup>. By commercial harvest volume.

## Ngā kōura

Kua kaha te mimiti haere o te rāngai kōura ki Te Pātaka Kai. Kua korehāhā noa atu te kōura ki ngā wāhi kua haoa tuhenetia, ā, e tere nei te rangiwhāwhā kē atu o ngā papa tītōhea o te kina nā te kōpaka o ngā konihi rarahi.

Kei te whakatau rāhui ngā mana whenua ki Waiheke me Aotea hei taupā i te mau o te kōura me ētahi atu kaimoana e tipu mai anō ai ngā kaimoana o te rohe.

I te tau 2017, ka matapaetia, kei raro iho te kōputu CRA2 i te tepe mōkito (te taumata, e ai rā ki te kaupapa here a MPI, e whakatinanahia tētahi mahere whakatipu anō, e ōkawa ana, e herea ana hoki ki te wā kua whakaritea).

I poroa mārīretia ngā tepe hao ā-arumoni, ā-rēhia hoki, i te tau hī ika o te 2018-2019 kia tipu anō ai te kōputu.

Hei tā te aromatawai kōputu 2022, i whaihua ngā whakahekenga hao - kua rearuatia te kōputu o te papatipu koiora mai i te tau 2017, ā, i tēnei wā kei runga ake i te tepe mōkito me te paetae taupua mō te kōputu. E kawatautia ana te ngaringari ake o te rāngai i ngā tepe hao o te wā nei.

Ināia tata nei whakataungia ai e Te Kōti Teitei me whai whakaaro a Tini a Tangaroa ki te whānuitanga o ngā pānga hauropi a te hī ika, pēra i te rangiwhāwhā o ngā papa tītōhea kina, i te wā ka whakariteritehia te tapeke o ngā hao ika e āhei ana. I whakahaua te Minita kia tirohia ngā āheinga kaimoana i te mahinga kōura o Te Tai Tokerau (CRA1) i te tau 2023, nāwai rā, ā, ka whakahekengia ngā tepe hao ā-arumoni, ā-rehia hoki.



He ānga tipa. Shaun Lee

## Ngā tipa

I ngā tau e toru, ki te tau 2021, e 50% te hekenga iho o te rahi o ngā whiwhinga arumoni i hua ai i te tipa i ngā tau e toru i mua atu. I ngā tau e toru, ki te tau 2021, e 39% te hekenga iho o ngā hirou tipa ā-arumoni.

I whakatauria e ngā mana whenua he rāhui kohi tipa huri i Te Rāwhiti o Waiaua, Waiheke, me te raki o Te Pātaka Kai tae atu ki Aotea, i mua i tā Tini a Tangaroa kati i te mahinga ika o Waiaua.

Ki tā ngā rangahau o te tau 2021, e 82% te hekenga iho o te nuinga o te papatipu koiora o te tipa mai anō i te rangahau o te tau 2012. Atu i ētahi pae iti i Te Hauturu-o-Toi me Te Korou o Colville, katoa, katoa, ngā mahinga ika o Waiaua me Te Tai Tokerau i kati i te Āperira o te tau 2022.

Ko ngā kitenga i ngā rangahau turuki, i roto i te kotahi tau, e 37-85% te hekenga iho o te papatipu koiora ki aua kōpure wātea e rua e toe ana, ā, i muri iho, ka kati hoki i te Tihema o te tau 2022. I te Māehe o te tau 2023, ka kati te mahinga ika ki Waiaua mō ake tonu atu.

I kati ngā mahinga ika o Te Tai Tokerau me Waiaua i muri i te katinga o te mahinga ika ki Whakatū/Wairau i te tau 2016, nō reira, kua korekore nei ngā mahinga tipa nunui ki Aotearoa.

## Ngā tuangi

Nā te kohi mātaimai me ngā āhuatanga ā-taiao i mimiti ai ngā tuangi e pai ana kia kohia. Huri i te ao, kua tauheke te kiato o ngā tuangi e pai ana kia kohia (>30mm) i ngā tau e 20 kua pahure, i ngā wāhi kua aroturukihia, ā, e whakaaengia ana te kohi. Ko ngā wāhi e ngaringari nei te tuangi e pai ana kia kohia, ko Umupuia me Okokino, kei reira hoki ngā rāhui kohikohi i te roanga o te tau, heoi, kāore i te pērā ki Whangateau ahakoa 12 ngā tau e rāhuitia ana te kohikohi ki reira.

Mā te āhuarangi hurihuri e kaha kē ake ai te tāmitanga o ngā rāngai tuangi, i te ākinga pūputu a te pāmahana teitei me ngā parakiwai, matū tāoke hoki ka pū ake i a parawhenuamea.

## Te matematenga

Tērā tonu pea, ka kaha ake te kitea noatia o te matematenga o ngā ika, o ngā mātaimai me ngā manu o te moana i ngā pānga o te āhuarangi hurihuri. I ngā tau e toru nei, inā noa atu ngā hautai kua matemate, ā, kāore he kōrero i mau mō tērā āhuatanga i Te Pātaka Kai i mua rā.

## Te kapoke kino, te kapoke pōrearea

Ko ngā kēhi tuatahi o Aotearoa, i kitea ai te tāhawahawatia o ngā mātaimai na ngā kapoke kino, i tuhia i te tau 1992. Mai i taua wā, 19 ngā pūkōhu ngaruru kino kua kitea ki Te Pātaka Kai, me te aha, ka rāhuitia, ka tukuna rānei he whakaohiti tūmatanui.

## Te ahumoana

Kei te tipu tonu te ahumoana ki Te Pātaka Kai, i te whakaaetanga o tētahi pāmu kūtai e 221 ha i ngā tau e toru kua pahure. E whakaritea ana hoki ngā tono i te 116 ha hei pāmu tārore i ngā punua mātaimai, i te 46 ha hei pāmu mātaimai, me te 300 ha hei pāmu raupapa rauropi (tae ana ki ngā ika pakihau).

E kawatautia ana te tipu ake anō o te ahumoana. Ko tā Te Rautaki Ahumoana a te Kāwanatanga ā-Motu e whai nei, ko te whakarāhinga ake i te ahumahi mai i te \$600+ miriona o te whakaputa hokonga ā-motu kia \$3 piriona te whakaputa hokonga i mua o te tau 2035.

## Crayfish

The kōura (crayfish) population in the Marine Park has been substantially reduced. Kōura are now regarded as functionally extinct in heavily fished areas and kina barrens are expanding rapidly due to the lack of large predators.

Rāhui are being used by mana whenua around Waiheke and Aotea to prevent the harvest of kōura and other kai moana to allow local populations to rebuild.

In 2017 the CRA2 stock, which encompasses the Marine Park, was estimated to be below the soft limit (the level at which it is MPI policy to implement a formal, time-constrained rebuilding plan). Substantial cuts were made to commercial and recreational catch limits in the 2018-19 fishing year to allow the stock to rebuild. The 2022 stock assessment indicates that catch reductions have been effective—the stock biomass has doubled since 2017 and is now above the soft limit and interim target for the stock. Further population increases are expected at current catch limits.

The High Court recently ruled that Fisheries NZ are required to consider the wider ecological impacts of fishing, such as the expansion of kina barrens, when setting the total allowable catch. The Minister was ordered to review the catch allowances for the Northland kōura fishery (CRA1) for 2023, and subsequently, the commercial and recreational catch limits were reduced.



Tipa (Scallop) shell. Shaun Lee

## Scallops

Commercial tipa landings in the three years up to 2021 decreased by 50% from the previous three years. The number of commercial tipa dredge tows in the three-year period to 2021 was 39% lower than the previous three years.

Rāhui were implemented by mana whenua around East Coromandel, Waiheke, and the northern part of the Marine Park, including Aotea, on the harvest of tipa prior to the closure of the Coromandel fishery by Fisheries NZ.

Surveys conducted in 2021 found the overall tipa biomass had decreased by 82% since the previous survey in 2012. The entire Coromandel and Northland fisheries were closed in April 2022, except for two small areas around Te-Hauturu-o-Toi and Colville Channel. Follow up

surveys found that the biomass in these two remaining open areas had decrease by 37-85% within one year, and subsequently, they were also closed in December 2022. In March 2023, the Coromandel fishery was closed indefinitely.

Closure of the Northland and Coromandel fisheries follows the closure of the Nelson/Marlborough fishery in 2016 and means that Aotearoa no longer has any substantial tipa fisheries left.

## Cockles

Shellfish gathering and environmental factors have reduced the availability of harvestable tuangi. There has been a universal decline in the density of harvestable (>30 mm) tuangi (cockles) over the last 20 years at the monitored sites where harvesting is allowed. Increases in harvestable tuangi have occurred in Umupuia and Eastern Beach where year-round harvesting bans are in place, but not at Whangateau despite a 12-year harvesting ban.

Climate change will add increasing stress to tuangi populations as they are more frequently subjected to higher temperatures and large loads of sediment and contaminants from flood events.

## Mass mortalities

Mass mortalities of fish, shellfish and seabirds are likely to become increasingly common due to the impacts of climate change. In the last three years, mass mortalities of sponges have occurred due to prolonged marine heatwaves.

## Harmful and nuisance algae

Aotearoa's first recorded cases of shellfish poisoning caused by harmful algae occurred in 1992. Since then, 19 harmful algal blooms have occurred in the Marine Park that resulted in harvest closures and/or public warnings.

## Aquaculture

Marine farming continues to increase in the Marine Park, with consent granted for a new 221 ha mussel farm and a 300 ha multitrophic farm (including finfish) in the last three years. Applications are also underway for 116 ha of spat catching farms and 46 ha of shellfish farms.

Further growth in aquaculture is expected. Central Government's Aquaculture Strategy seeks to grow the industry from one that produces \$600+ million in annual sales nationally, to \$3 billion in sales by 2035.

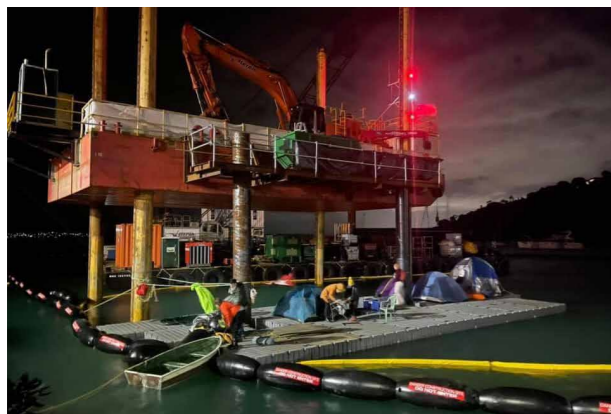
## Te whakawhānuitanga atu ki te moana

Ko ngā whakawhanaketanga matua ki te moana kua whakaaengia i ēnei tau e toru nei: ko te aratini ki Te Whau, ko te whakaaetanga mā Tāmaki Herenga Waka hei hirou waihanga, hei hirou whakatika hoki i te hawai o Rangitoto, ko te whakahoutanga i te whanga o Te Arika Tahī, me te hanganga houtanga o te Whaitua o te Moana o Kōpū.

Kua pīrahia ngā tatūtanga mō ngā tono e toru hei huke i tua o Te Tāhuna o Pākiri.

Neke atu i te 3000 ngā whakaaetanga kua tukuna i ngā tau e toru kua hipa hei hanga whare noho hou kāore nei e 200 m te tawhiti mai i te takutai o Tāmaki Makaurau.

Kua komoa he tono hei panoni i tētahi mahere tūmataiti e āhei ai te whanaketanga o te 200 ha whenua takutai i Kahawairahi.



Te Herenga Waka o Pūtiki - Te Motu Ārairoa

📷 Bianca Ranson / Protect Pūtiki



Te mautohe huke onepū

📷 Andy Bruce / Elevated Media

## Ngā matū tāoke

Kei te Waitematā me te Wahapū o Tāmaki ngā pae teitei rawa atu mō te tāhawa konganuku. E hia kē ngā takotoranga o aua wāhi he tahetoka (he āhua ngāwari) rānei, he whero (he kaha) rānei te taumata o te konukura, o te konuoi, o te konumatā me te konutea.

I te nuinga o te wā, he iti noa ngā pae o ngā tino matū tāoke o ngā parakiwai nō ngā wahapū i ngā riu hopuwai o tuawhenua. Hāunga ia ko te hautea o ngā wāhi i Te Tara o Te Ika a Māui kua roa e hukea ana (Tairua, Waiaua, Pārāwai), me ngā wāhi Whakateraki i Te Waitematā. I aua wāhi, kei te pae tahetoka, kei te pae whero rānei ngā kukū o te konukura, o te konumatā, o te konutea, o te konuoi anō hoki. E upa ana te kounga o ngā parakiwai i te nuinga o ngā wāhi e 41 kua aroturukitia. E rua ngā wāhi kua hē kē atu te konumatā, ko tētahi he kino ake te konukura, kotahi e kino kē ana te konutea, ā, e rua ngā wāhi kua pai ake te konutea.

## Ngā taiora

Ko ngā utanga hauota nunui rawa ki Te Pātaka Kai e ahu mai ana i ngā awa e rere nei i Pare Hauraki. I waenganui i ngā tau 2011 me te 2020, ko tōna 3,730 t i ia tau te utanga hauota i ngā awa o Hauraki. Hei whakataurite, ko te utanga i ngā taupuni whakatika waipara kaitā e rua i te rāwhiti o Tāmaki Makaurau he 245 t i ia tau, ahakoa 120 t i ia tau te rukenga i te awa matua o Tāmaki Makaurau.

Tapeke rawa ake, 10% te pikinga tōpū o te utanga hauota o ngā tau 2011-2020 i ērā o ngā tau tekau i mua atu, ahakoa e 27% te hekenga o te utanga pūtūtaewhetū. Tērā tonu pea, nā te ngaringari o te marara o ngā matatiki ahuhenua i ngaringari ai te tapeke hauota, ā, i heke ai te tapeke o te pūtūtaewhetū nā te iti haere o te puta i ngā matatiki takitahi pērā i ngā rukenga waipara kua whakatikahia.

Ākene pea, mā te ahumoana e nui ai te ngaringari ake o ngā utanga hauota. Ko tā te Mahere ā-Rohe o Waikato he whakarato āheinga rukenga hauota 1,100 t pea te rahinga i ia tau mā ngā pāmu ika. Ko ngā āheinga tūturu ka whakaarongia ā te wā e tatū ai ngā tono.

E heke haere ana te pānga o te hauota e tukuruatia ana ki te taiao (te tuku hauota) i te kokoru o Tikapa Moana. E hāpai nei ngā taiora uru kaha kia iti ngā pae hāota, kia ngaringari ake te pūkawatanga, ā, kia heke iho te tuku hauota ki ngā papamoana.

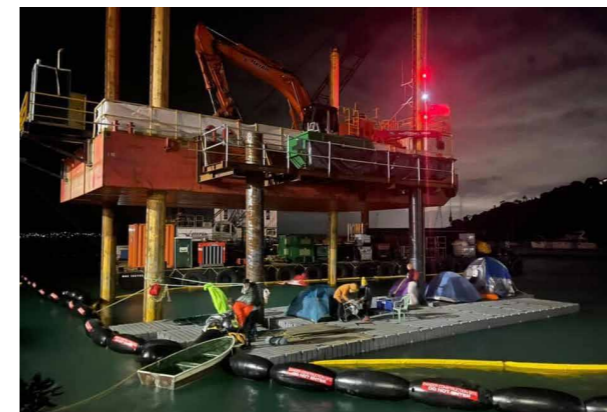
## Coastal urban and ocean sprawl

Significant coastal developments that have been granted consent over the past three years include: the Te Whau shared pathway, Ports of Auckland capital and maintenance dredging consent of Rangitoto Channel, an upgrade of the Te Arika Tahī Sugarloaf Wharf, and redevelopment of the Kōpū Marine Precinct.

Decisions on three consents for sand mining off Pakiri Beach have been appealed.

Over 3000 building consents for new residential buildings within 200 m of the coast were issued in Auckland over the past 3 years.

Application for a private plan change to provide for the development of 300 ha of coastal land at Beachlands lodged.



Kennedy Point Marina - Waiheke Island

📷 Bianca Ranson / Protect Pūtiki



Sand mining protest 📷 Andy Bruce / Elevated Media

## Toxic chemicals

Waitematā Harbour and Tāmaki Estuary have the highest levels of metal contamination. Multiple sites in those areas are in the amber (moderate) or red (high) ranges for copper, mercury, lead and/or zinc.

Generally, sediments from estuaries with mainly rural catchments have low levels of key metal contaminants. The exceptions are a scattering of sites on the Coromandel Peninsula associated with historic mining activity (Tairua, Coromandel and Thames), and sites in the Upper Waitematā Harbour. At those locations, copper, lead, zinc, and/or mercury concentrations are in the amber or red ranges.

Sediment quality at most of the 41 sites monitored over the past three years have been stable. Two sites have worsened for lead, one site has worsened for copper, one site has worsened for zinc, and two sites have improved for zinc.

## Nutrients

Greatest loads of nitrogen to the Marine Park come from rivers draining the Hauraki Plains. Between 2011 and 2020 total nitrogen loads from Hauraki rivers were estimated to be 3,730 t per year. In comparison, the load from Auckland's two largest, east coast wastewater treatment plants is around 245 t per year, while Auckland's largest river has been estimated to discharge around 120 t per year.

The combined total nitrogen load was 10% higher in 2011-20 compared to the previous decade, while total phosphorus load decreased by 27%. The increase in total nitrogen is likely due to increases in diffuse agricultural sources, while the decrease in total phosphorus is mainly due to decreases from point sources, such as treated wastewater discharges.

The recently consented multitrophic farm in the Coromandel Marine Fish Zone will substantially increase nitrogen loads, with a consented discharge of up to 800 t of nitrogen per year.

The rate that nitrogen is being recycled back to the atmosphere (denitrification) in the Firth of Thames is decreasing. High nutrient inputs are promoting low oxygen levels, increased acidification, and decreased denitrification in bottom waters.



## Te toitūtanga o te wai hei wai kaukau

I waenganui i te tau 2019 me te 2022, ko te 25% o ngā tāhuna i Tāmaki Makaurau i matapaea rā he wāhi kauhoe haumarū-kore nā te tūraru hauora e kitea ana i te 10% o te wā, ā, ko te 4% o ngā tāhuna i matapaea he wāhi kauhoe haumarū-kore i koni atu i te 20% o te wā. E rua ngā wāhi e whakaarohia ana he haumarū-kore mō te kauhoe i ngā wā katoa.

I te rohe o Waikato, 12 ngā wāhi e pai nei te kounga o te wai, he iti iho i te 5% ngā tīpakotanga i pahika i te keu pae Whakatakataka. E rua ngā wāhanga o te wahapū (Te Awa o Waitoko me te Piriti o Te Awa o Pepe) i te Whanga o Tairua kei te 16 ki te 22% o ngā tīpakotanga i pahika i te keu pae Whakatakataka.

E haere tonu ana ngā mahi hanga i te Ara Koti Waipara. Hei konei, ka 80% te heke haere o te toharite o te rahinga pūhake waipara ā-tau i te riu hopuwai kino rawa atu ki Tāmaki Makaurau.

## Te oranga o te parakiwai me te papamoana

He nui ngā uru parakiwai i ētahi wahapū. E kitea ana tēnei tūāhua i te ngaringari o te hautanga paru me te one rauiti i ngā wāhi maha i aroturukitia rā i te tekau tau kua pahure.

E 38% o ngā wāhi, i aroturukihia rā i Te Pātaka Kai, e pai ana, e tino papai ana rānei te oranga papamoana. Ko ngā wāhi e ora nui ana ko ērā kei waho atu o Waiwera, o Pūhoi, o ngā wahapū i Ōrewa me Okura, engari ko ngā wāhi kei raro iho te kounga, ko ērā kei roto mai i te Waitematā, i Te Awa o Tāmaki, i Mangemangeroa Awa, me Te Awa o Weiti.

Ko tā ngā raraunga paetawhiti i ēnei tau 10-20 kua hipa e whakaatu nei i te pai ake o te oranga papamoana o ngā wāhi e rua i Te Whanga o Tairua (te roma o Oturu me te kokoru o Pepe), ā, e whā ngā wāhi (Pūkorokoro, Manaia Rd ki Te Whanga o Tairua, Awataha, me Motu Pākihi ki te Waitematā) kua tauheke. Ko te nuinga o ngā wāhi kihai i kitea te pūmau o te ia i ngā tekau tau kua pahure.

## Ngā mānawa

Kua ngaringari ake te horanga o te mānawa ki ngā wahapū kua aroturukihia i ngā tau e 30 kua pahure. 1.2% te pikinga o te horanga toharite i ia tau, ā, ko te tino pikinga i kitea i Pūhoi (3.5% i ia tau) me Tairua (3% i ia tau). I ētahi atu wahapū, pērā i Whitianga, he iti noa iho te panoni o te horanga ki te takiwā, engari kua ngaringari kē ake te apiapi o te mānawa.

Ko tā Ngā Paerewa Taiāo ā-Motu mō Te Wai Māori 2020 (NES-FW) e whakaatu ana i te āpiti whakamarumarutanga ki ngā kūkūwai māori, tae atu ki ngā mānawa, kei waho atu i Te Taiāpure. Ko tā ngā paerewa he whakatina i ngā mahi pērā i te tango mānawa, i te rukenga me ngā manioro e kātata ana ki ngā ngahere mānawa.



Te Awa o Piako © Shaun Lee

Piako River © Shaun Lee

## Suitability of water for swimming

Between 2019 and 2022, 25% of Auckland beaches were predicted to be unsafe to swim due to potential health risks for more than 10% of the time, and 4% of beaches were predicted to be unsafe to swim for more than 20% of the time. Two sites are considered to be unsafe to swim all of the time.

In the Waikato Region, 12 sites had good water quality, with less than 5% of samples exceeding the Action level trigger. Two estuarine sites (Grahams Stream and the Pepe Stream Bridge) in Tairua Harbour exceeded the Action level trigger in 16–22% of samples.

Work is progressing on the construction of the Central Interceptor. This should reduce the average annual overflow volumes in Auckland's worst catchment by 80%.

## Sediment and benthic health

High sediment inputs occur in some estuaries. This is reflected in the increasing proportion of mud and very fine sand at many monitored sites over the last decade.

38% of monitored sites in the Marine Park have good or extremely good benthic health. The healthiest sites are in the outer areas of Waiwera, Pūhoi, Ōrewa and Okura estuaries, while the poorest quality sites are in the inner areas of the Waitematā Harbour, Tāmaki Estuary, Mangemangeroa Estuary and Weiti River.

Longer term data for the last 10–20 years show that two Tairua Harbour sites have improved in benthic health (Oturu Stream and Pepe Inlet), and four sites (Miranda, Manaia Rd in Tairua Harbour, and Shoal Bay and Herald Island in Waitematā Harbour) have declined. Most sites show no consistent trend over the last decade.

## Mangroves

Mānawa coverage has increased in monitored estuaries over the last 30 years. Average cover increased by 1.2% per year, with the greatest increase in Pūhoi (3.5% per year) and Tairua (3% per year). In other estuaries such as Whitianga there has been little change in area covered, but mānawa density has greatly increased.

The National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-FW) provides for additional protection of natural wetlands, including mānawa, outside of the Coastal Marine Area. The standards restrict activities such as mānawa removal, and discharges and earthworks near mānawa forests.

## Te kanorau koiora ā-moutere

He punanga ngā motu riha-kore mō ngā manu māori me ngā kararehe. I tēnei wā, e 42 ngā motu i Te Pātaka Kai kua kore he riha whāngote mohoa, i eke ai te tapeke ki te 10,700 ha. Nō te 2020 tauākītia ai a Rakitu hei wāhi riha-kore.

Kāore i ārikarika te tāmata anō i te māheuheu ki runga o Motuora me Rotorua i ēnei tau nei. Kua pai haere te ora o te kiwi me te pōpokatea i te 'Tūraru-Tauheke' ki te 'Te Whakaraerae Kore' i te aromatawai whāomoomo o te tau 2021.

Ko ngā whanaketanga mai i te pūrongo o mua o Te Āhua o Tikapa Moana ko:

te tauākī he riha-kore Te Motu o Rakitu;

te uakitanga o Tū Mai Taonga nā Te Poari o Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea, he kaupapa e kore ai te tori mohowao me te rīroi i te motu o Aotea;

tā Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau, tā Ngāti Manuhiri hoki me ētahi hoa pakihi, uaki kaupapa i tipī haurarotia ai ngā rīroi, ngā toriura, ngā paihamu me ngā warapī i Te Kawau Tūmāro o Toi;

te kōkūhanga o ētahi whakamarumarū āpiti ki Te Mahere Whakahaere Riha o Tāmaki Makaurau 2020-30, a ka whai wāhi atu ngā kaupapa e aro ana ki te kaupare i te taunga mai o ngā taru kino hou, o ngā ika, o ngā manu, me ngā mokopeke ki Aotea;

he whakahou i Te Pānuī Whakamatua o Tikapa Moana e kaha ake ai ngā tikanga whakamarumarū mō te Moana, i raro tonu i te Ture Haumarū Koiora.

## Te tohorā

Mai anō i te tau 2014, kāhore he tohorā i mate i te tūkinga ōna e te kaupuke ki Te Pātaka Kai.

Kei te Taumaha ā-Motu te noho o te tohorā i te tūnga whāomo. Kei reira tonu ngā māharahara mō te āhei o te tohorā ki te tiki kai e rawaka ana. I roto i te tekau tau kua hipa, kua whakawhiti ngā tohorā i te kai ika mororiki nō te aumoana ki te kai i te meroiti, otirā, he iti iho te kiato o te taiora. Ko tēnei whakawhitinga kai he tohu pea i te tauheke o te rahinga ika mororiki nō te aumoana i Te Pātaka Kai.



Tohorā (Bryde's whale) © Jo Logan

## Ngā manu o te moana

18% o ngā manu o te moana e whakaputa uri ana ki Te Pātaka Kai kei te Whakaraerae, ā, e 67% kei te Tūraru.

Ko te āhua nei, i ngā tau o nā noa nei, ko ngā manu kai ki uta pērā i ngā kawau, i ngā hoiho me ngā karoro, e whakakohukitia ana i te kaha panoni o te tūāhua o ētahi momo, otirā, ko ngā manu kai ki tai kei te āhua pai ake i Te Pātaka Kai. Kua hē kē atu te tūāhua whāomoomo o te pārekareka, o te kawaupaka, o te kawau tūi me te rako, heoi anō rā, kua tino pai ake te tūāhua o te toanui me te tarāpuka.



Tākoketai © Shaun Lee

Kua āhua ngaringari ake ngā aituā nā te hī i te tākoketai, i te toanui hoki i te rāwhiti-mā-raki o Aotearoa mai i te pūrongo ō mua. Ko ngā pānga hopu tākoketai o te wā kāore tonu pea i te toitū, ko tōna 70% pea te nui ake o ngā aituā hao ika arumoni ā-tau i ō te āheinga o te kāhui tākoketai e whakaraerae ana ki te tautīnei.

## Ngā manu o tātahi

E whā ngā manu o tātahi e noho nei ki Te Pātaka Kai kua pai haere i te tūnga whāoma i te tau 2021 (te ngutu pare, te huahou, te pohowera, me te tōrea pango), ā, kāore i tauheke te tūāhua o tētahi mea kotahi.

## Ngā taonga o tawāhi

He kōrero kua mau mō te 157 o ngā momo nō ngā moana o tawāhi kua tae mai ki Te Pātaka Kai. Ngahuru mā tahi ngā momo hou nō tawāhi kua tae mai ki Te Pātaka Kai i ēnei tau e toru nei, otirā, o aua momo ka tautapatia ngā rimu rawaho *Caulerpa brachypus* me te *Caulerpa parvifolia* hei rauropi waingai nā te tūpono whakawehi mai.

10 ngā riha moana i tāpirihia e Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau ki tā rātou Mahere ā-Rohe Whakahaere Riha 2020-30, ā, kua rāhuitia te nekeneke a aua riha moana i Te Pātaka Kai e tū nei i te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau. Ko te herenga o te mahere e mea ana kia kōmāmā noa iho te koiora hēhē i ngā waka o te hunga nō rātou aua waka.

E whāia nei e ngā kaunihera ā-rohe o Te Tai Tokerau, o Tāmaki Makaurau, o Waikato me Te Moana a Toi he Mahere Takere Mā e ngātahi ana, kia rite tonu ai ngā tikanga takere hēhē o ngā waka, hei āwhina i te whakahaeretanga o te horapa o ngā riha moana huri i te tūraki o Aotearoa.

## Island biodiversity

Pest-free motu (islands) provide sanctuaries for native birds and animals. Currently 42 motu in the Marine Park are free of wild mammalian pests, totalling around 10,700 ha.

Significant revegetation has occurred on Motuora and Rotorua in recent years.

North Island brown kiwi and pōpokatea (whitehead) have improved from 'At Risk-Declining' to 'Not Threatened' in the 2021 conservation assessment.

Developments since the previous State of Our Gulf report include:

Rakitu Island being declared pest-free;

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust launched Tū Mai Taonga, an initiative to make Aotea free of wild cats and rats;

Auckland Council, Ngāti Manuhiri and partners launched an initiative to eradicate rats, stoats, possums and wallabies from Kawau Island;

the introduction of additional protections under Auckland's Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-30, including programmes aimed at preventing the establishment of new pest plants, fish, birds and reptiles on Aotea;

an update of the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice to strengthen legal protections for the Gulf under the Biosecurity Act.

## Bryde's whales

No Bryde's whales have been killed by ship-strike in the Marine Park since 2014.

The conservation status of Bryde's whales remains Nationally Critical. Concerns remain about the ability of whales to obtain sufficient food. Over the past decade, Bryde's whales have switched from mainly eating small pelagic fish to eating zooplankton, which are less nutritionally dense. This change in diet may indicate a decline in small pelagic fish abundance in the Marine Park.



Tohorā (Bryde's whale) © Jo Logan

## Seabirds

18% of seabirds that breed in the Marine Park are Threatened, and 67% are At Risk.

Inshore feeders such as shags, penguins and gulls appear to be particularly impacted in recent years with large shifts in the status of some species, while seabirds that feed in offshore waters appear to be improving in the Marine Park. Pārekareka (spotted shags), kawaupaka (little shags), kawau tūi (black shags) and rako (Buller's shearwaters) have worsened in conservation status, whereas toanui (flesh-footed shearwaters) and tarāpuka (black-billed gulls) have made large improvements in status.



Tākoketai © Shaun Lee

Tākoketai (black petrels) and toanui fishing fatalities in northeastern Aotearoa have increased slightly since the last report. Current tākoketai capture rates are unlikely to be sustainable with an estimated 70% likelihood that annual fatalities from commercial fishing are greater than what the population of threatened tākoketai can sustain.

## Shorebirds

Four shorebirds that live in the Marine Park have improved in conservation status in 2021 (ngutu pare (wrybill), huahou (lesser knot), pohowera (banded dotterel) and tōrea pango (variable oystercatcher)), while none have decreased in status.

## Marine non-indigenous species

Around 157 non-indigenous marine species have been recorded in the Marine Park. Eleven new non-indigenous species have arrived in the Marine Park over the past 3 years, of which, *Caulerpa brachypus* and *Caulerpa parvifolia* were designated as unwanted organisms due to their potential threat.

Auckland Council added 10 marine pests to their Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-30, and has prohibited the movement of those marine pests within the Marine Park that lies within the Auckland Region. The plan requires all boat owners to have no more than light biofouling on their vessels.

Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regional councils are currently working towards a shared Clean Hull Plan, which would provide a consistent set of rules relating to hull fouling on vessels and help manage the spread of marine pests around northern Aotearoa.



The full report on the State of our Gulf 2023 is available from [gulffjournal.org.nz](http://gulffjournal.org.nz)

Under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 the Hauraki Gulf Forum is required to prepare and publish, once every three years, a report on the state of the environment in the Hauraki Gulf, including information on progress towards integrated management and responses to prioritised strategic issues.

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

[www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz](http://www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz)



**Hauraki Gulf Forum**  
Tikapa Moana  
Te Moananui-ā-Toi