

Tai Timu Tai Pari



seachange

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

HAURAKI GULF MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Access to the Gulf

Access to the coast is one of the key reasons why people live around and visit the Hauraki Gulf.¹

Around 58 per cent of the 2500km-long gulf coastline is adjacent to publicly owned land or roads, including an outstanding network of parks and open spaces that protect natural values and are enjoyed, free of charge, by residents and visitors alike. However, it is not clear how much of the coast is actually accessible for the public.²

Recreation

Beaches and coastal areas are important recreation spaces for many people. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park provides an ideal environment for a wide range of recreational water sports, including walking, swimming, surfing, sailing, waka ama, kite activities, kayaking, boating, diving and windsurfing. The many parks and reserves that border it provide opportunities for mountain biking, bird watching, walking, picnicing and camping, as well as access to the Gulf itself.

Hauraki Gulf

- At least 169 boat ramps.
- Over 11,000 moorings and marina berths.
- Over 100,000 people go sea kayaking each year.
- At least 104 playgrounds and 267 public conveniences.³

1 - 3, 5 Hauraki Gulf Forum, 2004 – State of the Environment Report

4 Covec, 2009 in Barbera, 2012, Towards an Economic Valuation of the Hauraki Gulf

6,7 Beca, 2012 – Auckland Recreational Boating Study

8 Ministry of Economic Development, 2010

Tourism

The Hauraki Gulf is a popular tourist destination. Nature-based tourist trips for the Hauraki Gulf in 2008 were estimated at 2.9 million, 26 per cent of the national total. The tourism sector is a key employer and provides 15,742 gulf-related jobs, resulting in a total GDP impact of \$937 million.⁴

Pressures

The key pressures on access to the Gulf are increasing population, rising property prices and changes in coastal communities. These trends make it harder to improve access opportunities, causing loss of facilities, such as camping grounds, and adding to disputes over access.⁵

Increasing boat ownership has implications for boat ramps, trailer parking and other land-based facilities.⁶

High tourist numbers may affect the environment, resulting in:

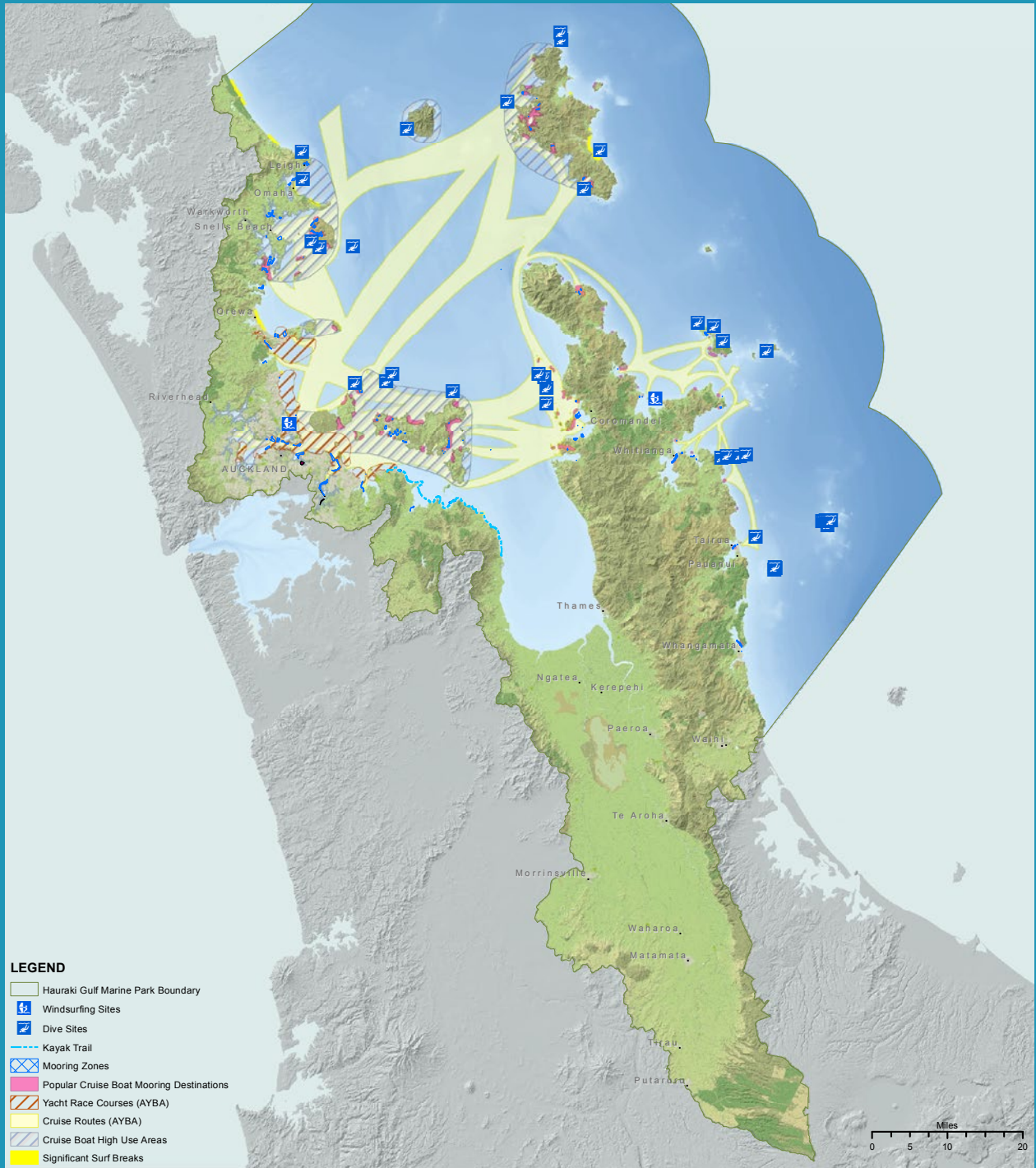
- damage to fragile natural environments
- development that may affect our environment
- strain on infrastructure, such as waste treatment services and roads.

The Thames-Coromandel district's usual population of 27,100 grows by six times over the Christmas Day to New Year's Day period.

Trends

- Hauraki Gulf residents and visitors will continue to place a high value on recreational qualities and opportunities.
- Recreational boat ownership is linked to population and household numbers, and continues to increase. Trailer boat numbers are increasing by approximately 3 per cent per year. The numbers of jet skis, small yachts, kayaks and other paddle craft are increasing at 6-10 per cent per year.⁷
- In the next 3 years, visitor numbers are projected to increase by 0.4 per cent and 0.8 per cent per annum in the Coromandel and Auckland respectively.⁸

Recreational activities in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park



Recreational water sports

Photo: Roger Grace

