

Tai Timu Tai Pari

Sea Change

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

HAURAKI GULF MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

ABOUT THE PROJECT

It's all about the Gulf

Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari is about ensuring the Hauraki Gulf is a healthy, productive and sustainable resource for all users.

The area we're talking about

We're talking about the 1.2 million hectare Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, which includes both sides of the Coromandel Peninsula.

The marine spatial plan's focus will be the Gulf's coastal marine area. That's the area between mean high water springs (MHWS) and 12 nautical miles offshore.

An outside-in approach to planning

To plan our way forward we have to understand the current use and state of the Hauraki Gulf marine environment and the future wants and needs of its users. To do this, we'll be using a process called marine spatial planning.

This process, Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari, will be a collaborative process. While the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) is at the core of this process, the wider public and those who have been a part of the forums will also have opportunities to feed in their information and ideas to the SWG.

The SWG will also need to tell the wider public about the Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari process, so the public understands and supports SWG decisions.



What the SWG will deliver

The marine spatial plan will be delivered by the SWG in 2015. The plan will not be legally binding in itself, but it will provide a strong framework to guide the management of the Hauraki Gulf, and help shape future agreements, statutory plans and management actions.

Information from the plan will be used to modify unitary, district, regional and coastal plans and any relevant policies, rules and regulations. It will also sit side-by-side with iwi management plans.

Listening to Gulf Communities

The SWG refined the topics to be discussed and consulted on, then organised group discussions with 25 local communities up and down the coast, on islands and in gulf catchment areas. These group discussions were called Listening Posts.

Local communities were asked for their connections, memories and impressions of the Gulf, plus comments on specific issues. More than 250 people took part.

A public summary of those discussions is now available. It is entitled *The Voices of the Hauraki Gulf*, and it identifies six big themes:

1. We are blessed
2. The Gulf is a core part of our identity
3. The Hauraki Gulf is a metaphor for life
4. The health of the Gulf is in a state of flux
5. The wellbeing of the Gulf and people's wellbeing are intertwined
6. We must all care for the Gulf.

The SWG has established six issues-based 'Roundtables' to break the work of Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari into manageable pieces. The issues to be considered by the six Roundtables are:

- water quality and catchments
- fish and fish stocks
- biodiversity and biosecurity
- infrastructure and commercial uses
- aquaculture
- accessible gulf – including recreation, boating, heritage and visitors.

These Roundtables will be the primary tool for the SWG to progress its detailed investigations on these issues. Each Roundtable comprises three or more SWG members, plus other invited participants who have specific knowledge or expertise in the topics under discussion. Each Roundtable will:

- receive and provide information
- discuss and debate issues and aspirations
- identify options and try to resolve conflicts.

All this will assist the SWG fulfil its obligation to produce the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

Support for the SWG

Independent chair and facilitator

A chair, Nick Main, and facilitator, Kaaren Goodall, will assist the SWG. Nick's and Kaaren's roles are independent of the process. Their job is to guide the SWG to help it achieve consensus on the content of the marine spatial plan.

As chair, Nick will lead the formation and meetings of the SWG. He will also be the liaison between the SWG and other groups involved in Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari, for example, the Project Steering Group (PSG), project teams and relationship managers.

As facilitator, Kaaren will help the SWG work more effectively, collaborate and achieve synergy.

Project teams

There are a number of staff available to support the process of developing the marine spatial plan. These staff are from Waikato Regional Council, Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries. Their roles include providing advice on topics the SWG want information on, help with the conversations between the SWG and the wider public, and helping to write the plan.

Technical support

The SWG will be able to draw on a range of technical experts and specialists as required. Any information and advice required will be organised through the technical support team.

Independent Review Panel

The Independent Review Panel will review the plan before it is presented to the Project Steering Group, to assess whether it is fit for purpose, robust and follows best practice.

Learn more about marine spatial planning

- **The top 15 publications on Marine Spatial Planning by Charles Ehler.**
C. Ehler, 2012. Open Channels: Forum for Ocean Planning and Management website. <http://openchannels.org/literature-library/top-msp>.
- **General information on MSP around the world:**
Marine Spatial Initiative, UNESCO website. <http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/>
- **A very detailed explanation of what MSP is:**
C. Ehler and F. Douvère, 2009. "Marine Spatial Planning: A Step-by-Step Approach toward Ecosystem-based Management." IOC Manual & Guides No. 53, IOCAM Dossier No. 6. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO: Paris, France. 99 p
Downloadable <http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/uploads/documentenbank/d87c0c421da4593fd93bbee1898e1d51.pdf>
- **Video to sum up the key elements:**
Florida Sea Grant (4/03/2013) "Marine Spatial Planning Webinar by Charles Ehler", retrieved 13/12/2013. From You Tube <http://youtu.be/iuC5lemONFI>
- **The essentials of MSP with this cartoon:**
L. Jochem, and M. Stoltz, 2010. *Become a Maritime Spatialist in 10 Minutes*. Frankfurt: WWF-Germany. 28p. http://www.baltseaplan.eu/downloads/WWF_Cartoon_MSP.pdf

