



Community Listening Posts: comments by topic

July 2014



Hauraki Gulf
Marine Park
Ko te Pataka kai
o Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki o Waikato

Auckland
Council
Te Kaitiaki o Tāmaki Makaurau



In partnership with mana whenua and the following agencies:

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Introduction

From December 2013 to June 2014, Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari undertook a series of ‘Listening Posts’ in 25 locations around the Hauraki Gulf – with particular emphasis placed on connecting with people in small, rarely consulted groups and communities.

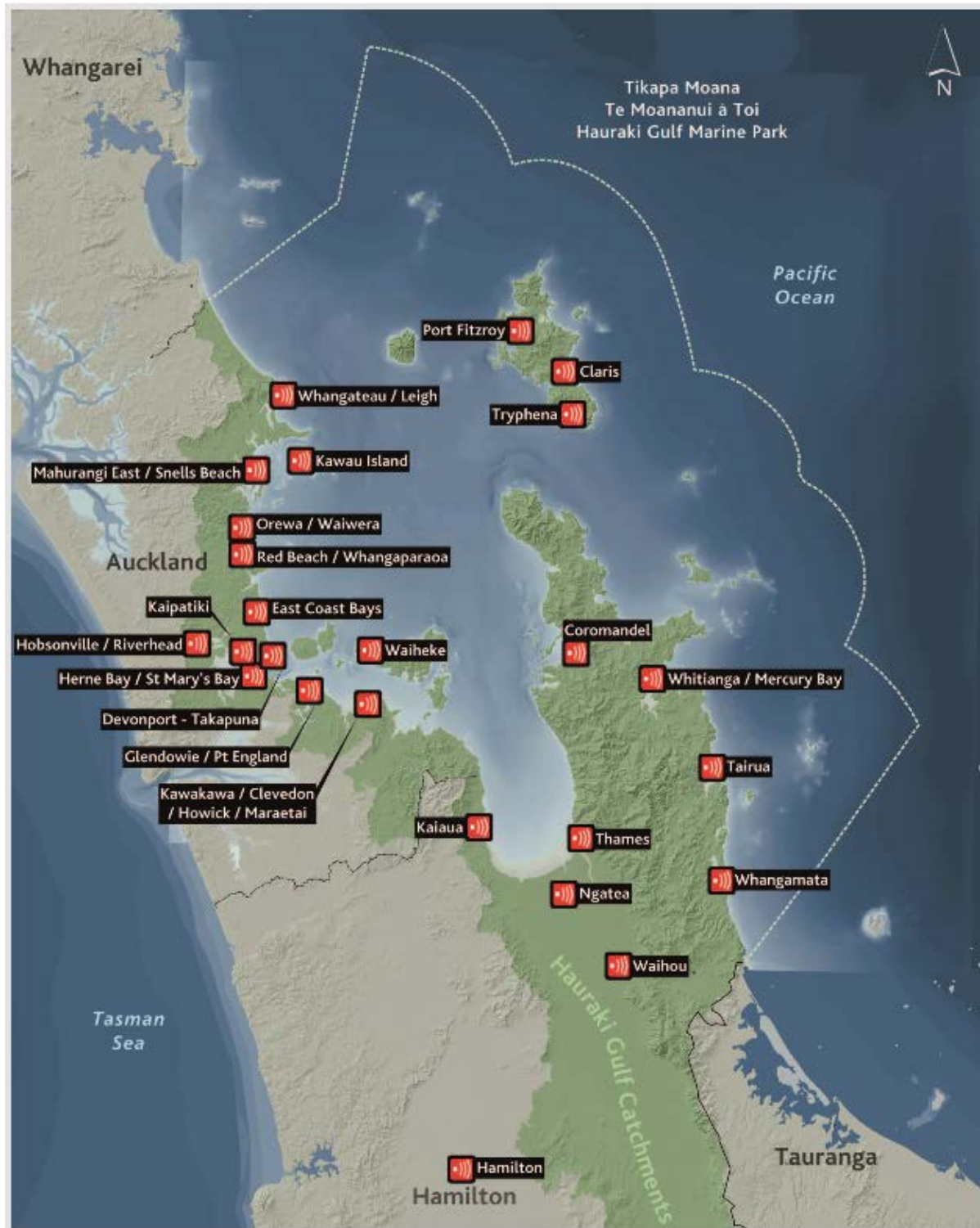
The two-hour Listening Post meetings were designed to provide a snapshot of values and concerns: to hear in people’s own words the way they use the Gulf, their activities on the Gulf, how they value the Gulf, what their aspirations for the Gulf might be.

What people said was recorded on paper, unedited. This material covers many hundreds of years of collective experience from those actively living, working and enjoying the Gulf. These people have often spent a large part of their life connected to the Gulf. They were able to talk about the past, present and future hopes. What they value about the Gulf and want for its future is part of the information collected.

The Listening Post comments have been collated in this document under the six topic areas identified by the Sea Change Stakeholder Working Group (SWG). Each of these topic areas is assigned to a stakeholder roundtable which is responsible for identifying the key issues and management solutions to take forward to the SWG for consideration.

There were a number of comments on implementation of the plan that justified a seventh category on implementation to be included in this document. Some locations made no comment on a specific topic. In those cases the name of the location is listed but has no comments.

These listening post comments will be used to help the SWG and roundtables assess what issues need to be addressed in the Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari marine spatial plan.



Map showing location of community Listening Posts

A large school of silver fish, possibly silver snappers, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed in the upper half of the frame and more spread out in the lower half. The background shows a coral reef at the bottom, and the water is a deep, clear blue. A white rectangular box with rounded corners is positioned in the upper right quadrant, containing the text "SECTION 1".

SECTION 1

1 Fish Stocks

1.1 Ngatea

- Fishing is better now than 20 years ago, more, smaller fish.
- Used to get whitebait in the river here (the Waihou).
- Used to be able to catch whitebait at Ferry's Landing.
- You can catch whitebait now at Waitakaruru – no predator fish there.
- There used to be 80 ton of flounder go through the local shop in a year (30 years ago).
- Snapper here year round good fishing, better fishing here (southern Firth of Thames) than near the mussel farms.
- Still cockles in the Firth here, snapper are full of spider crabs. They (snapper) eat dead shellfish left by the tides, had to get snapper straight away before they went off.
- More gurnard now! I used to be a flounder fisherman, there are more flounder now than there used to be.
- At Te Puru, pair trawlers come in and fish really close, no lights, they are fishing near the beach.
- I took the grandkids out fishing for the first time on Saturday and they all got fish. Good to know we can still do that.
- Went game fishing recently, caught two marlin on the east coast (of Coromandel), they were full size ones. About 2.6m long but low weight for their length. When I put them in the smoker the meat was red, from all the krill they'd been eating – is their diet changing?
- There are wars now between trawlers and the rec (game fishers). It happens at the 200m depth contour line, all along the east coast, off Whangamata and that. What's the economic gain of that fishing method??
- You can get scallops out in the middle of the Gulf, I got 9 good legal ones.
- There are mussel beds out in the middle.
- More fisheries officers are needed as there are more people now. Got 21 scallops that were measured differently by the fisheries officers, out by 1mm, in 1 ½ hrs.
- If you have to measure then it's too small. You see people catch small ones and keep them.
- It depends on how far you have travelled to go fishing. If you have spent a couple of hours getting out there you're more likely to want to keep it. Everyone's keen to improve their fishing, for now and the future.
- Opposed to gill nets. Don't know if it's a coincidence or not but there were no fish off Pauanui this year and there had been a gill netter working in close to the beach.
- Don't know if longliners are any better. If he's got 1000 hooks and he gets 700 caught that's a lot of fish.
- Longliners are the most sustainable fishers. Usually smaller guys, work hard, and their fish catch is managed under quota. Cray fishers voluntarily retiring some of their quota so they can keep going.
- Quotas save us (from overfishing). (Another person agrees).
- Police those trawlers – issue for the whole Gulf.
- Do we need to designate the Gulf as a rec fishing only area to cope with more rec fishers in the future?
- Fishing from Waikawau, the bottom of the Firth.
- Used to eat the oysters many years ago.
- The mussel beds used to be 'on the hard' (in the southern Firth of Thames).
- There are carp, large carp, in the drains by Ngatea. The summer is worse for muddy rivers, low freshwater input and high tidal influence, mud just goes backwards and forwards.

- In the Waihou, whitebait catching, still now. Whitebait in the Piako too.
- As the population grows we have to manage/police fishing, we don't want overfishing.
- Controlling trawlers in the Gulf and Coromandel.
- I'd like to continue fishing but I want my farming business to be sustainable too, both economically and environmentally.
- Everyone's keen to improve their fishing, for now and the future.

1.2 Thames

- Stopped gold process and the toxic waste in 1952. Life returned to Ohinemuri River.
- Thames oxidation ponds in the 1980's also improved Firth.
- Farm effluent controls in the 1980's also improved Firth.
- Pacific oyster appeared early 1970's, now large beds, reefs. Hard to cross Piako because of the oyster beds. They are filtering.
- Lots of wild mussels in the Firth still. Now easier to buy them.
- Netted at Tararu for about 10 years in 1984-85.
- Now good in the inner Firth as well. They are full of cockles. Caught in 3m of water.
- Firth looks muddy but has more fish, they are also growing faster.
- Used to say it was a waste of time fishing snapper in winter. Would come into Firth all summer. Snapper were seasonal but are now here all the time and are growing quicker. Even little fish (snapper) are there now.
- Mangroves increase could be linked to better fishing.
- It's the rivers that are also helping.
- Is there less commercial fishing?
- Yes, less now. It's controlled by quota system.
- Do recreational fishers have the same impact as commercial fishers?
- Some weekends, no fish, some lots.
- Catching more snapper. The mussel farms have improved it. Firth is growing faster. Now getting quite a few 15lb fish.
- Also hearing that fishing in Firth is good. Snapper and king fish around the mussel farms.
- Used to catch heaps of whitebait in both rivers (Waihou and Piako), not much now.
- In Waihou used to have to swim/drag the flounder net. But heaps of carp in there now (in the Cut).
- There's mullet, rudd and carp in there too.

1.3 Whangamata

- Green lip mussels were in high numbers at Clarke Island but not now.
- We could collect tuatua on the point by the bucket loads, not any more.
- 1968/69 I remember when we had log books and I wrote to the Fisheries to tell them something needed to be done to ensure fish stocks would be here in the future – the quota system improved fishing remarkably. By 1990, fishing was pretty good.
- Surf has changed (used to be as high as 2m at the point) but is still pretty good.
- Yellow fin tuna used to be in good numbers, not now.
- Gurnard numbers were good, not so now.
- Terakihi numbers have halved to what was caught five years ago.
- Crayfish were plentiful (1990s really good), now hard to catch.
- More cray pots out on the sea than ever before.

- Tauranga commercial crayfisher has his pots in all the bays around Whangamata.
- Fish can be sourced anywhere e.g. San Hauraki (trawling) fishes the area.
- Commercial fishing limits are three nautical miles from Whangamata shores (not crayfishing).
- Fish at and around Mayor Island are been taken before stock can grow
- Trawler (15 years ago) destroyed fish habitat by trawling the seabed.
- Scallop bed has been affected and are small – not growing when they used to be big.
- Commercial fishing hit areas hard – stocks caught locally but not available locally – 28cm snapper commercial / 30cm snapper recreational.
- Plundering of shellfish beds by both immigrants and those New Zealanders who do know better.
- Want a recreational fishing zone that excludes commercial fishing.
- Want a three month quota system from mid-October – and control of when crayfish can be taken.
- Implement seasonal fishing so snapper aren't caught in spawning season.
- Commercial fishing done by long line, do away with dredging.
- Like to see commercial boats are connected (so everyone knows where they are).
- Like to see recreational fishing controls are actually policed.

1.4 Hamilton

- As a kid we use to get mussels at Kaiaua from the sea bed.
- State of the fisheries vary and are different between the areas of the HGMPA area, what we call the Gulf, between Kawau and Colville point are the healthiest fishery in NZ. The Quota Management System has significantly (positively) impacted on this.
- In the mid to late 1980s struggled to catch fish in this area, late 90's the fishing started to get better and has continued since then.
- Change has been rapid, look at the mussel beds, this change is colossal.
- Hype in fishing magazines has changed, lots more now.
- Rec fishing as a kid was more low key, people had 12ft tinnies and fishing was done less than a kilometre off shore, no fish finders. Methods have changed.
- Used to take my son as a teenager over to the Gulf so that he could catch legal fish and not have to go out over the bar (Raglan Bar).
- Last 2 years the Firth has consistently fished well, the middle ground around Coromandel has had a lot of 'goldfish' (small snapper), fish below 27cm (and now 30), having to catch 10 fish to get two keepers.
- Almost impossible to get legal scallops.
- No legal crays off Tairua in the last two to three years.
- From Waihi to Whangamata wasn't great fishing as a teenager, has gotten even worse, have noticed more kingfish though.
- Quota management had an impact on kingfish, they dropped the quota, reduced the commercial quota when the QMS came in
- Set net banning around the 1990's had an impact.
- Trevally have disappeared.
- Very few gurnard around, hard to find and they are small. Gurnard 1 area on the West Coast, heaps of gurnard, not like the east coast, it's not because people can't get out as easy on the west coast, the bar isn't a problem now, not with bigger heavier boats.
- Impact of the extra 3cm on snapper size limit makes it harder.
- Coromandel side is stuffed for fishing, the inner Gulf one of the best fishing areas in NZ.

- Want the Bay of Plenty side (eastern side) of the Hauraki Gulf to be as good as the inner Gulf.
- Want legal sized fish so abundant that I catch my limit every time.
- Manage the fisheries so that we don't need marine reserves, and manage the marine farmers.
- That habitat is improving, not in decline, it would include banning of bottom trawling.
- Trawling, gill netting and seining banned in the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park . Not banning commercial fishing entirely, just these methods.
- Investigate bycatch of commercial floundering, if bycatch is minimal then it's okay, if not then need to look at restrictions.

1.5 Coromandel

- Fish, flounder, pipi and cockle stocks have depleted.
- All fish stocks are depleting really.
- On the islands down at the scallop beds at west end of Whanganui islands, the sand is gone, it's mud now. Scallop beds have just depleted.
- Waimate Island current isn't as strong so beds are still there for a little while longer.
- There's commercial fishing, recreational fishing, charter fishing. Lots of quota limits for charters.
- Harvesting needs RMS, how can we fix this?

1.6 Kaipatiki

- I remember kingfish going past our place, but they don't do that now.
- There aren't the sprats. (There were so many) people went down and fed their cats with sprats. You could put your hands in with bread and they'd all come around. When I was talking to my Dad on Saturday we had noticed that there was one man catching snapper. There were two comments that there were more snapper (than there used to be). It could be because of the marine reserve.
- When I was a child the cockles were almost the size of your hand; now they're the size of a thumb nail.
- There seems to be a lot more fishery inspections now, checking the static fishermen and the boats coming in, more than there was a few years ago. There seems a lot more visual surveillance now, including education of the general public.
- After people noticed that shellfish were disappearing from Cheltenham Beach residents put a rahui on people taking shellfish from the beach. All the residents were wardens, keeping an eye on the beach. They would go up to strangers to explain the rahui. At the same time they did annual surveys of cockles and the tiles they made, set in a low wall behind the beach, show that every year the cockles got bigger and were more numerous.
- We took some immigrants on a boat trip and explained (to them) where to fish and not to fish.
- Snell's Beach used to have banks of cockles washed up on the beach. Not any more!

1.7 Waiheke Island

- There were more commercial fisherman based on the island and more used sailing boats than power.

- In 1992, the oyster beds closed, affected some fishing.
- In 1976-79 there were longliners making a living fishing from here locally and there was a fish processing plant at Ostend; the clothing factory came in 1953 then Tingeys the hardware where they had absolutely one of everything. We had co-ops too – food co-ops, fish co-ops – this was before quota.
- The government gave a quota and decided it was so much and bought back. This brought an end to some fishing as people just sold their quotas.
- Never throw anything back because we never caught anything smaller than a smoker.
- Foreign fishing changed things, trawling. The purse seiners came and in 1976 there was even a trawler here in Pie Melon Bay but they don't do that anymore, it was stopped. They would trawl from Gannet Rock to Tiri and around Pakatoa. What can you do – you've got to catch them at it.
- In the Coromandel it was the scallop dredging that ruined everything there.
- The mussels from Channel Rock and fishing over the mussel beds has gone and the scallop dredges are also wrecking everything even today.
- You couldn't make a living flounder fishing around Timatakataka.
- Well it has changed because we used to get a two gallon bucket of cockles there in about five minutes flat and there are no whiting about now. Remember when you could put the bait catcher down and get the small species. The kids down off the wharf. They don't fish off the wharf any more – the old bait catcher full for the cats. The bread truck would come around, the fish were practically lining up for it. There would be huge schools of fish.
- Kahawai used to fill the bay but not anymore. Snapper and kingies all around them.
- Want lots of fish.
- Improve quality of shellfish and fish but at a balance with lifestyle.
- More controls of commercial fishing. There are stories of some dumping thousands of fish back in the ocean. What is the point of saying I can only have seven fish when the other end of the spectrum needs to be sorted.
- Maybe we could have wardens policing the rules that are already in place.
- I'd like to see the Gulf free from trawlers actually. It's a breeding ground with warm waters. Doesn't make sense to have trawlers through it and destroy it.

1.8 Upper Waihou

- The Waitemata, you used to be able to go fishing, they always caught what they wanted, now quotas and all sorts came in and you've lost it. Now there are limits.

1.9 Milford to Long Bay

- We used to gather pipi and tuatua here 40 years ago but then all the shellfish was gone.
- I'm not sure if there really is a difference. There seems to be some really good seasons and then some bad seasons. Seems to be cyclic.
- The fishing seems to be better with some species.
- Don't seem to have the same biodiversity in fish.
- Over 25 years cycles haven't changed – penguins suffer.

1.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- Omaha was a sand spit, where you could collect tuatua on the front beach, the paddle crabs were really vicious, there was crayfish on Ti Point, and it was a piece of cake to get one for Grandma on a Sunday. In the Whangateau Harbour, you could get mussels. Grandpa would get the dinghy, we could go down and get them. There were so many sprats in the harbour you could hear the kingies chasing them. You could catch snapper. Flounder you used kerosene lights to attract them. There were pipi in the harbour and plenty of cockles, but these were the poor man's food, and now you can't get them. The harbour was a real food basin, you would catch and share with others. At Pakiri there were plenty of mussels on the rocks and tuatua on the beach, those days are gone.
- I was one of the Schischika family. I was born on the Puhoi River. My family lived there all their lives, my father and uncle farmed together, I went out in their launch when I was just six months old, we could go out when the tide was right, there was no refrigerator. First you trolled for kahawai for bait, and then you caught just enough that would keep. The kingfish, my father used to watch them from the cowshed on the river. He could see them come in close to shore to get the sprats. He would shoot them with a .303 and that lasted us a few days. We speared for flounder, simple to catch, plenty to eat, we even had a cat who could catch flounder from the river's edge. I used to row across the river, we spent all the time playing in the river, tide in or tide out. We also collected pipis and cockles and used to have a fire on the beach. One of my tasks was to chip away and eat oysters, not pacific oysters. My parents had a winter run-off at Sullivan's Park and owned the headland at Te Muri. On the way back we would walk around the rocks and Dad would collect a sack full of rock oysters, it was much quieter. I have noticed that in those days there weren't many mangroves, I don't think they're a good thing as they cut down the river. They were definitely golden times.
- I can remember fishing up the sewer at North Head. We would catch 12 or 15 in an hour. When you are 12 you like to catch lots of fish. You would always get fish; nowadays you have to be more technically savvy.
- Fish, there are many of them but they seem small.
- Every kingy we have caught is 72cm long – we need to iron them!
- Our fish preference is bled kahawai but the palate for fish is not the same for everybody.
- Snapper still the fish of choice.
- We get plenty in the deeper water these days.
- The Gulf is a hatchery. I wonder about \$\$ to Auckland from recreational fishing – could we attract more value with more fishing charters and other visitor attractions.
- See the commercial boats working off here and it brings tears to my eyes.
- Night after night can see trawlers; they are not supposed to be here, are they?
- But there is no enforcement, what can you do about it?
- Hoovering up the fish.
- Nobody can nail the trawling.
- Recreational fishers only go out about 10 miles, say to Kawau.
- Maybe delineate the commercial fishers further out and make room for the rec fishers closer to shore.
- Boat ramps can monitor the catch from rec fishermen; it is not the big boats that are breaking the rules – they have too much to lose.
- Many of the fishing clubs have moved away from the prize for the biggest fish (the breeders) and mostly reward catch and release.
- The fishing programmes encourage release – we didn't used to have these.

- Some activities would be barred – maybe a fishing bar but you can long line; controls introduced over the spawning season 6-8 weeks - that kind of thing.
- The management of scallop beds is a good example where there was a fuss about closing the beds for spawning but it has benefited the scallop gatherers. The season has extended again and the scallops are recovering.
- Work in with the lifecycle.
- Concerned about customary rights in specific areas around the coast where there has been a toll. I would be very vociferous about 'no go' areas.
- The Hauraki Gulf is the commons where everybody can go – it's available for all.
- We see a lot of cockles now; they seem to be on the increase. We see a lot of set netting, we see fishers come up every weekend. If you set your net correctly you are allowed to do it - five of us can set it and five of us can have the legal limit. It's a bit indiscriminate, it tends to be done in darkness.
- Set netting for a group of people, because it is part of their culture. They camp. The biggest change is the kite surfing. There's a bit of conflict with set netters.
- One of the drivers in the Coromandel made it imperative that every tourist must be able to come home with a fish. We are part of Snapper 1 – the stock is at 8% of the 1900 stock levels and the government has a strategy to re-establish that at 40% as an optimal stock level. To manage this, where snapper is in decline, they dropped it by (a take of) 2 for recreation fishers, and people don't really need to take that much anyway. Below 20%, and especially below 10%, it's very difficult to get them back. Hopefully we will quickly get to a strategy that will quickly make a difference.
- A cut in the size for recreation and not for commercial seems crazy. Are we trying to protect the export value from things that go out of the country and the people that live here don't have the access?
- If you make the reserves to make more fish, there's enough room between them, so you can still go out and get stuff, just don't take so much!
- One thing I'd like to see is no commercial fishing inside the Gulf; I've been around the world and what we have here is up with the top places – there are plenty of other places to fish.
- A closed spawning season and healthy increased, improved fish stocks – all fish stocks including shellfish which filter the ocean.

1.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- Lost cast line at southern end time and time again.
- I walked around with a sheath knife back in the day and one day saw a big flounder – I took out my knife and speared it then wondered what to do with it. I took it home and we ate it.
- My dog brought a kahawai in for us one day! Kahawai were in vast numbers in the bay. The bay would echo with the sound.
- The biomass of sharks and other fish was far greater.
- Schoolhouse Bay in Mahurangi would be alive from one side to the other with fish. There were large schools of kahawai from Sandspit to Mansion House Bay.
- The beach was alive with cockles and big crabs. I remember finding a flounder in shallow water and it was flipping around and I thought what now do I do? We were allowed to carry knives in those days, as a farm boy.
- My father was walking on their way with an umbrella. On the way back they got a huge John Dory and brought it home.
- An old Labrador brought us a huge kahawai. The whole bay echoed with the sound of kahawai. Fish – shark, snapper and stingray – there seems to be a lot less now in the bottom of the bay. It doesn't feel like that in the Mahurangi. We had enormous boil-ups the other

day. From School House Bay we went to Sandspit and there were kahawai the whole way across, right over to the approaches to Bon Accord Harbour.

- I got a dinghy and started setting flounder nets and started to organise myself around the tides, and if I didn't the seagulls would pick the eyes out of the flounder.
- Kawau Bay – through observation it seems to me that there is not as much fish life in the Bay. Used to be large schools of kahawai, stingray, snapper – used to catch off the rock. Western end, Brick Bay in dingy 10m off beach, could catch. Bay has less fish, less cockles.
- I remember huge schools of kahawai, lots of stingrays and snapper. We used to go fishing to Half Tide Rock and we used to just catch snapper there and at the western end of brick Bay, 10m offshore. Maybe you still can, but it seems that the bay has less fish in and not the same cockle stocks.
- We used to catch a lot of sprat but they and flounder are not around as much.
- In the outer Mahurangi, there's an estuary on your left as you are going out, those bays used to have sea grass. Ecologically it's a good thing; little fish use it as a place to hide.
- We need to look at the bigger picture, wish we could have no take – 10% protected in any form of protection from rahui, etc.
- No fisherman has convinced me they need more than 90%.
- Think bottom impacting trawling should be kicked out.
- Policy should change – take out 80% of top predators.
- Push standing stock of fish up to 40-50 biomass.
- Community fishing plan with Ngati Manuhiri to protect marine life from inevitable pressures.
- Cockles will get hammered.
- Attitude from general public about marine life. It's so popular and there are so many contests. We'll look back in 100 years and see it as barbaric.
- In the fished areas the management needs a huge shake up; bottom methods like trawling should be kicked out of the Gulf. We need to leave more fish in the sea. (Getting to) 20% of the original biomass has had a huge impact on the rest of the ecology; the kina barrens are there because there's not enough snapper and crayfish there. I wish to push it up to 40% or 50% of the biomass.
- We have a brochure with a 10 point plan for the Whangateau Harbour.
- No fishing around Horseshoe Island; it's a magic place to go snorkelling.
- South of the causeway in Whangateau Harbour should become an extension of the scientific reserve that exists in the kahikatea forest on the land; create a bit more flexibility and connectedness.
- A community fisheries plan for the Whangateau Harbour or a mataitai or arrangement with Ngati Manuhiri to protect the place from seafood gathering from people coming from Auckland.
- One major concern is the attitude of the general public to marine life. I'm concerned about fishing as a recreation activity, particularly fishing competitions. We still see fish as something not (sentient); it is common for people to not even be kind to them when they pull them out of the water, sometimes leaving them (alive) out in the hot sun.

1.12 Kawau Island

- Commercial fishermen diversified in their gear and target species. They weren't organized like they are now. There were much more fish then.
- Fishermen would work the seasons and cycles. They would not throw things back dead like they do now. The women would never allow their husbands to waste fish.
- They had values and a sense of connection to the place. They would never come in in the middle of the night – people would think they had an ulterior motive.

- It's the scale of commercial fishing now. We should not be fishing and shipping our fish off to other countries.
- It was like "conservation by inefficiency". There were 4 fishermen doing various fishing (fish, crayfish, etc.) – it was much more community based.
- When the quota system came in, the fishermen sold out and it all changed. There was less connection with the industry to the community around here. You can't even buy fish from a fisherman any more!
- You never really saw people taking fish to fill their freezers!
- There used to be much more shellfish back then – now there is no shellfish in Ladies Bay.
- The fish life today is not nearly as much as it was – although these two kingfish have lived under my wharf for 30 years.
- We used to pot for crays but not now.
- Commercial fishing used to be done by small local operators and now this is dominated by the larger commercial companies that don't have the careful practices – if my uncle behaved this way he would have got a whack – there were very strong community values.
- You have to travel a long way further today to get crays.
- I want to continue catching fish.
- ...for the privacy to continue. I'd also like to see Mansion House shift from DOC and become a facility that people will love and want to look after – visitors too and also a place for our community, vibrant.

1.13 Great Barrier Island

- Matarangi, that's where I grew up (on Coromandel Peninsula) remember incredible wastage of kahawai, people would fish off the Barrier then waste them, massive holes had to be dug in the forestry to bury them. Always mullet up the creeks...
- Could just go out and catch a fish, no problem.
- Would catch big fish off the rocks, whereas now you would let them go, it's a respectful thing, plus they are not that nice to eat. Try to change others habits with letting these fish go, not keeping them.
- Have seen changes with social media, when people post photos of big fish, people want to know if you let it go.
- Catching a big fish was bragging rights at school.
- Have heard stories of people shooting fish in the waves, snapper and kingies.
- Less fishing competitions.
- Used to be more recreational, not all over TV (fishing), used to just throw a bait out.
- Always something new: new info, how to release (now) whereas 20 years ago much less knowledge, especially around releasing fish.
- Mindset was just keep fishing.
- East coast, used to be crays littered everywhere, now barren. Now you see 100 pots in a small distance, people cleaning out whole holes (cray holes)
- Paua: there were areas where they were so thick that you couldn't put your feet on the ground without hitting them. Tryphena was the same. Only needed a small area to get your limit.
- When people would call up on Great Barrier Radio, the first place they would head to would be Opuku.
- Scallops were at Opuku, it's like they just got up and left.
- Remember that they (scallops) seemed to leave because of the Opuku Slip. They have gone before but this is the longest stretch that they have buggered off for.

- Set netting 30 years ago. The boats were big around this coast. Out to the subterranean plough outside the Mokes (Mokohinau Islands). Devastated the fish in the 1970s.
- In about the 70s motorised set-netters came in. In the 70s and 80s there was trawling, uncontrolled fishing, huge nets on the bottom. Gill netters scooped up all the reef fish.
- Boats threw away a lot of waste. Big boats and the Japanese fleet came for the tuna and kahawai. Big seiners still operate within the inner Gulf. They spot acres of skip jack tuna using their helicopters.
- Some of us commercial fishers are really subsistence fishers. Quota came in but we just wanted to be left alone. However the system has worked in conserving snapper and trigger species. You know, the john dory eats the snapper. There used to be small time, family- run fishers. Now there are none.
- It was hard work for local fishermen. They bring money into the Barrier. They cared about the resource. They had their own rules. Gentlemen's agreement. We fished to our own boundaries which were often the boundaries on the land. Quota broke all this up.
- I came here in 1980. The only real change I have seen since about 1985 is more and more and faster boats coming in the summer. They have depth sounders for fish – if you are a fish you are in a nightmare. They get here in two hours. They've got their freezers and their bait from Taiwan and they catch the good fish.
- Okiwi School has a cockle sample each year to see how healthy they are. Cockles around a bit. I like them with garlic and ginger. They are not a big as we used to get. It takes a while to find a bed now and gather enough for a feed.
- It didn't used to take long to get pipi at the size we used to eat. It is harder now but they are spreading out more and lots more are coming back. We don't know why but farmland surrounds the estuary. It's grazed by cattle and they took the mangroves out. The 80s was the height of farming.
- We lived at Forestry Bay – millions of pipi and oysters. We lived off the beach. There was a war on the gorse. It all got sprayed. They washed their gear in the creek and it went out into the bay. They all disappeared.
- As a youngster mainly on the east coast, cousin and I used to shoot snapper in the breakers, as they were feeding on the pipi, was about 12-13 years old, used to wait till the old man disappeared over the gap.
- Kaitoki beach, that many snapper, we would drag the sack full home, that's what it was like in 1949/47.
- Crayfish in those days, you could see them on the bottom, the half eaten ones were on the floor.
- We used to row out, but with fishing boats and gear not so advanced, and if you know the tides, you can still get a feed.
- We used local knowledge and technology now, but we used to clean up easily.
- Years ago I used to have 50 hooks on a long line, we would set 150 (50 per person) hooks for two days, around Motuihe, two sets a day for two days three times a year, would fillet and wrap them, into the freezer, that fed us for the year. I can't do that now because of the quota system. But fishing is now easy here and I get what I need.
- I've been fishing over 26 years here, there are less big fish, but they are still here, there's a change in pattern; April to May-June the fish would come through, different schools from the inner Gulf, fish numbers are up.
- I keep fish notes and the patterns are changing; the cycles are longer.
- Bob Whitmore, a commercial fisher, reckons that in May the harbour is full, then they disappear, September they come early, making you think they have arrived, but they haven't, then 22 October they arrive.
- Before here, I had never been on a boat; I was the last commercial fisherman supplying local fish to the people here, now I run big barges. It was easy to catch a fish, you had to. I was

fishing right at the start of the quota system, it was pretty good fishing, different from Gisborne, it was lovely.

- When the quota came in, you couldn't move out here for boats and owners, it was competitive, it was like the quota owners were a big bikey gang, pillaging.
- In 1996, I came over to run a charter boat from Kawhia, and worked in the quarry. First year, only caught a few big fish until I got local knowledge of where and when they were. The crays (commercial) I drop off to Whitianga, sometimes there is a 20 pound snapper in the pots, they are knackered, I lease a bit of quota so I can sell a bit of fish.
- I was the last one supplying local fish, then the little guys got over-regulated, I was the only one checked coz I had the licence, was selling it for \$5kg filleted, then the locals didn't want to pay.
- Some years are easy, some years are hard, don't know why, but they are five year cycles, we need to understand how they breed and why, this is a photo of a three-year-old cray (like a tea spoon length, TINY!); a legal cray is 11 years only, they only breed once before they are legally caught.
- These crays (baby) they live in the plankton, it depends when the eggs are blown, whether there is an east Auckland current, cyclones etc. that effects the next five years.
- Fish comes and goes from Mahia to Tasmania, in Mahia a good cray catch is 150kg, 30kg is a good catch here. There is about four cray fishers here.
- There are lots of variables. The snapper aren't there to whack off the kina, the kina whack off the kelp, then they get a barren, the whole thing gets out of kilter.
- For 33 years I gathered kelp and seaweed for my garden, don't get it like we use to, there used to be piles of eel/sea grass all along the beach, it's now diminished, depleted to a scattering.
- No local long line fishers, locals who had quota sold. People who had no money sold quota to make money.
- No fresh island seafood sold on the island. Only two people with receiving licenses for fish stocks.
- Quota system drove some out, too hard to comply, too hard to get ice, bait and arrange the pickup of fish.
- All the rubbish I picked up the other day was all recreational fishing rubbish. Finding less rubbish like supermarket bags, etc. About two years ago it felt like container loads of rubbish were being dumped on the beaches, horrendous! Used to get lots of commercial fishing rubbish, now all rec fishing, makes me angry.
- Have been running a charter operation here since 2006 then we would regularly catch big snapper. Now not catching the same number and size. Used to get kahawai as soon as we left the wharf, we would throw out a lure and catch one. Now from October to after Christmas there are none. Has the pattern changed?
- Where are all the pilchards? Has commercial fishing impacted on them?
- Change in dynamics, big fish not pushing the bait fish up to the surface for the birds.
- Used to be massive schools of kahawai of Kaitoke, acres of them, now smaller amounts.
- Thousands of kingies around over summer seen them while diving.
- Have been catching more kingfish than kahawai this season. Kahawai was undervalued and is now depleted. Remember seeing kahawai sold in western Aussie for \$1.50/kg.
- Used to get kahawai all the time, now at random times, has something changed to make them move? Or are they just passing by here? Is it fishing or a change in water temperature? Change in shipping?
- There are massive boats off Okiwi and Whangapoua working at night close but not quite like they used to. Thirty years ago trawlers would do that beach all the way along. They don't do that now. They just seem to be sheltering.

- Our records show an increase in a constant level of snapper fisheries, but we are over-fished.
- We had pipis as kids, not now, scallops gone, paua not keeping up with harvesting, you only get legal sized pauas on the east coast now.
- Paua, you could get them all around the coast without getting wet, a marine worm has attacked the bigger ones, so now there are few legal sized, the worm gets into the shell, but the paua have also been hammered by people.
- Want fishing to remain accessible for all people, for families, for people's tables. The solution is not more regulation.
- Increased sustainability measures for fisheries management, to be at a point where you could easily fill your boat because of plentiful abundance of ALL species! Go for broke, not just snapper, NO forgotten species. Plus an upper size limit for cray and fish, not just a lower limit.
- Self-sustainability; catch a feed for the table; a healthier fish stock.
- Wish that fish had a higher value and not just the monetary one, e.g. commercial patching, processing downgrades fish, what's used, bycatch, needs to be a commercial approach that values the resource. Marine reserves are a must, can still have people buy in, can have places of respite for the fish. NZ quota system poorly supports commercial fishers, the system's not world leading, it's a crock of shit, the quota holders get the biggest benefit \$ and they don't do the work, quota owners should be required to fish. The person who catches the fish should get the greater return.
- My wish list is to have a plan in place to protect breeding fish for a period of time, for crays and snapper.
- I would like a ten commandments... though shall not blah blah, and all of us work out what the rules are, that's all the Gulf's people e.g. thou shall not catch too much, thou shall not use a susy knot, it's all in a book you give it out to the boaties, everybody knows, bang!
- Would like to see a priority given to those feeding their families over corporates, it's not recreation, we go to feed our families and without lots of beauracacy.
- I think everybody, or 90% of locals, practice conservation, they don't clear the whole lot out. Protect the fish by getting people on board locally and close off an area for a time, like during spawning time. Obvious ways like no trawling in the Gulf, we manage it so there's fish in the future, we know what's going on here locally.
- Catch a fish, it's very important.
- More fish stocks protected, only residents go fishing commercially, local first like the past.
- Maintain a ban on fishing for pilchards in the Hauraki Gulf, pilchards are for other fish and sea birds, so that we have many sea bird colonies. Schools of tuna drive the pilchards to the surface for the birds, it's synergy.
- I would like to see purse seiners and trawlers banned across the whole Park, so that there are heaps of fish and seaweeds and everything else.
- 40% biomass for fish.
- We harvest to a sustainable level; we need science and knowledge.
- Local fish caught by local people, rather than feeding a paper trail, I want to see people on our eating our fish.
- My wish: more fish, clean swimming water, less bureaucracy, fish stock improved, it feeds the birds.
- Educated boaties know what's too small to catch.
- I'd like to see a mataitai right around the barrier, protected and managed by our community, there would be some sort of fishing in parts or at times, it meets local needs and a small number of local commercial operators.

1.14 Devonport/Takapuna

- St Leonards used to be a marvellous place for tuatua, the lack of fisheries control is blighting the coast, you used to be able to almost guarantee to catch a fish, I remember Prof Morton talking about crayfish on Takapuna Reef, thank God for Robbie (and his Mangere sewerage works), fish are edible.
- We can remember 30 years ago at Scandretts Bay, there used to be an annual fishing competition with heaps of fish caught every year; we would watch the trawlers pulling a net between them, taking all they could get, after that a hundred boats went out and produced just one patiki (flounder) a year, they never came back again.
- My son recently saw a trawler dragging gear in the Gulf.
- My son-in-law is a great fisherman, he regularly goes out and four of us old guys, but we can still fish and get good fish within a short distance of Auckland. It's a pity that the younger people aren't so involved, they are a bit like me in my younger days, they take it for granted. Until something happens and it affects you personally, sadly we don't act till then.

1.15 Kaiaua

- Used to be scallops out here off Tapapakanga and Matingarahi, you only had to head out 25 minutes at 12 knots to the bed.
- Changes in shellfish makeup.
- Dredging impacts.
- Historical fisheries damage before quota management system, destroyed the shellfish beds.
- Large boats with nets don't come in like they use to, the rules have changed, but are still seeing the impacts.
- 1967 dredging stopped, starting to see the changes now.
- Fishing as a child, richness and abundance that isn't there now. Need to start turning the corner.
- When I started farming here, there used to be a few fish; now I see a colossal amount of trevally as well; away from the farm I'm getting gurnard which didn't happen before; snapper fishermen are getting lots of snapper.
- The scallops have come back but only last till about 60mm size & then die off again.

1.16 St Mary's Bay

- Other places have no fish or seriously modified environments. But we are losing our fish...a lot of shellfish and sea-life are starting to go from the CBD to around the Islands also.
- We need to try to stop the arrival of pest species like fan worms.
- We need to take stock of what we have and protect what we have, for example there are less and less scallops and the shellfish are smaller.
- Life in the Gulf has changed drastically.
- No fish boil-ups any more, less seagulls.
- No shellfish – all the shells washed up on the beaches are small and old – no new shells are observed.
- One thing that really brings it home to me is remembering the clouds of little fish/sprats that would swarm/school around piece of bread dropped from the boat – this does not happen anymore. You can watch the bread fall all the way to the bottom out of sight with no fish to be seen.

- Kids can't catch anything off the local wharves anymore.
- Fishermen don't really catch anything off beaches and wharves any more.
- Scallop populations around the islands have changed considerably, with fewer and smaller scallops.
- Lots of fishers under the Harbour Bridge.

1.17 Mercury Bay

- Cooks Beach had a scallop bed off there, now only little ones.
- Lobsters are not all over like they used to be, the answer is the mass of humanity.
- Our pie chart would show us where to use some handles, some understanding; fish data is with the fishermen – we collect data every minute and it has to be in pronto or you get a fine; in future we should make other surveys of uses binding as well, the information is the key – provide the information to make things improve.
- All extractors would collect info.
- The newcomers haven't grown up with our approach to being careful with the seafood and the sea; if you don't have an experience you're unlikely to conserve.
- If you eat one undersized paua it's the same result as eating 500.
- Crayfish and snapper are measured every year and the decline has been reversed; the cray population now is the biggest cray population in NZ and I've been watching this for about 22 years.
- There is a rule on my boat that we don't take female crays and people including tourists on a day trip would agree.
- A few years ago it was written up that the female crayfish hunt for the big buck crayfish so maybe it is OK to take the females, difference of views here, crays mature at five years and the older the cray the less virile.
- We don't know enough about the cray population because they come from far away as well from Northland on the warm current and Gisborne.
- 1999 was the best cray year ever all because of settlement
- Fishing gets difficult, not for the recreational fisherman; there is good recruitment of snapper, and huge influx into the biomass of the Gulf; Neil Cheney's father was a fisher here all his life In the 40s, they had very bad years in snapper; Poor recruitment – what's happening? Silt? Unusual weather pattern? Conditions during spawning periods?
- Scallop and crayfish are different, we have to look at the patterns El Nina and El Nino, the other one every 7 years.
- Fishery collapses are not always down to human impacts, sedimentation destroys scallop larvae, forestry run-off and bang, gone.
- Mum's dairies record weather and catches – good years and bad years, wind, no wind.
- Bumper year for snapper including red snapper, plenty of 3lb and over snapper being caught and released; a 13-year-old kid caught a 27lb snapper and released, shows the new awareness of protecting the fish stocks.
- Release is happening more.
- Our lobster industry, back research with funding tagging and stock monitoring, but there is no indication of the amateur take.
- We need recreational fishing data.
- Want an end to industrial fishing of pelagics – kahawai, trevally – we will see them on the surface in schools the way we used to.
- An end to gill netting.
- Big nets gone.
- A return of the boil-ups on the reef.

- We will be confident we can pick up three fish for dinner – dinner will be there.

1.18 Maraetai

- I did a lot of fishing up the river 30 years ago – almost fished every day.
- Need more rangers and rangers with enforcement roles to police areas for over-fishing.
- The compliance monitoring guys only work nine-to-five weekdays so they are never around when the issues come up.
- I thought snapper fishing around here was not good but it appears, through MPI, that it is a good season.
- 10 years ago we started losing kahawai due to the large purse seiners, the kahawai basically disappeared; from the Three Kings all the way south, they took all the bait fish with the massive nets, they took everything till it was no longer commercially viable. Kahawai seem to be coming back.
- Tuna Valley we used to call the area between the Needles to the Mokohinau – Tuna Valley, but you'd be lucky to catch a yellowfin or skipjack there now.
- Yes, it bought a tear to my eyes watching the huge purse seiners in action – taking 350 tonnes of fish at once; my kids were asking me what they were doing, it was devastating.
- Those big boats should be forced to fish further out. They should not be allowed in the marine park area. They are large offshore fishing fleets, using sophisticated location systems, helicopter spotters and they wipe out entire schools, taking all our fish so there is nothing for the small time commercial fisher.
- There is a conflict between these large scale commercial fishers and game fishermen – I've been in the water where the large fleet has tried to bully us out of the area. They impose themselves on people who have far more right, in my eyes, to those fish.
- This goes to central government I think, it's about sustainable fishing, it's about commercial fishers and catch limits. The catch limits need evening up a bit, rec fishers are now more limited in size of catch but this is nothing compared to the size of commercial quota. I think there should be some boundaries for commercial fishers. The fish in supermarkets struggle to be 8 inches. Sustainable fishing – that's it.
- Abundance for everybody. Everyone has a good share even with a bigger population.
- Underlying theme for me too is sustainability and not only for kai moana but for a growing population.

1.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- There was plenty of fish especially kahawai and round the old whaling station. The whales still used to come into Whangaparapara. There were lots more dolphins, whales, kahawai, orcas playing around the boat as you sailed.
- After the 70's there were fewer crays and now there are heaps again. You could get 10 anywhere now you have to know where to get them but they are there. My cousin knows and he won't tell anybody.
- Just last weekend my son-in-law-to-be went out in his kayak, free dived off Whangaparaoa and got three.
- The fish are coming back and have done so over the last 12 years so I think all the work that has been done on water quality and the commercial quota has made a big difference – there were fewer work ups than there are today.

- The commercial fishers are now nowhere near A buoy or inside Tiri or in the Motuihe Channel There's not as much long lining, and there are lots of restrictions on commercial fishermen. Also rec fishers have been reduced again.
- I'd like to see the Gulf stay as it is, fish where you want, not reserves like out the back of Barrier. When the wind comes from another direction you need places like this as an alternative weather-wise.
- That people can fish safely.

1.20 Hobsonville

- There were so many kahawai and they were so hungry we could catch them with a white rag tied over the hooks – not any more!
- At the Stillwater Motor Camp we would put the bait catcher in the water and it would come out chocker with sprats – where are the sprats now?
- At Herald Island we caught kingy, and snapper right there off the ramp.
- In 1942 at Shelly Beach Park, Whitford, we went fishing in a clinker dinghy (clinker dinghies were what we had back then, this is even before the Seagull outboard motor). Clinkers were the boat of choice – the sharks would eat all the bait – we used mussels because the sharks didn't eat them.
- There were few if any marine reserves.
- The Gulf channel outside Waiheke-Oneroa in the 80s, all you could see at night was the lights of the trawlers –they stripped the place.
- The school fish all went. You used to get a kahawai on a raffle or at the pub for \$4.50 – great to see them now back. At Easter I saw kahawai schooling again in significant numbers.
- There's a lot of work at the University of Auckland by Glen Simmons on fish dumping (the less favoured species?)
- The inner Hauraki Gulf was studied to death and nothing seems to happen. All money, no action.
- Leigh, Little Barrier, Great Barrier over to Coromandel, it's just not sustainable to have both the commercial fishers and the recreational ones.
- Fish gatherers come from all ethnic groups – some take everything.
- I would really really like to see no commercial fish take – mussels and oysters are OK – from Cape Rodney-Little Barrier-Needles-Tryphena and over to Port Jackson.
- Like to see the Gulf as a healthy marine environment for all to enjoy and to have a body or caretaker looking after it – my grandkids catching fish in a healthy environment.

1.21 Tairua

- Divers: decline in scallops, belief that not meant to dredge, but it's happening, 10% of what it was. Significant reduction! Recreational diving couldn't possibly have this impact. Impact is from commercial dredging.
- License divers to take scallops commercially rather than dredge.
- Diving now, could be my eye sight, but I don't see as many crayfish.
- More people fishing in the pond, don't think snapper numbers have declined.
- Opoutere to Shoe/Slipper Island scallop bed (for no commercial dredging). Used to only take less than a tank to get the limit.
- What happened to gentleman's agreement?
- Could this be an area for partnership rec & commercial to re-seed, re-establish, then give it five years to re-establish? What an asset for the community.

- Cray a lot less than 1970's.
- Fish you catch are undersize.
- Lights of the trawlers seen night after night. Seems like when the locals start catching fish, then the commercial boys arrive.
- Yellow fin tuna: totally gone.
- Purse seine boats from Tauranga at night and blatantly during the day.
- Kahawai gone more recently? Kahawai historically not valued as an eating fish.
- Less schools of fish – trevally.
- Purse seining restriction area?
- Paralytic shellfish ban – what causes this? Nutrients? Sediments? (not on at moment but has been for last five years, last 10 years particularly – Ocean Beach & Hot Water Beach shellfish gathering (Tairua to Whakatane) not recommended.
- Fish diversity used to be amazing, used to dive 100ft & see full fish column – not so much now especially at Aldermans!
- Boat Harbour – nursery for cray.
- Gill netting in harbour.
- Last winter 80 bins of fish – trevally/gill fish/flounder.
- Locals didn't realize it could be done.
- Netting ban inside Shoe... didn't include harbour.
- Changes in ability to catch fish in harbour off wharf.
- Catching a fish on wharf now more of a surprise than an expectation.
- Orca, dolphins regular visitors (not last year).
- Kayak fishing: snapper caught at dusk
- Commercial fishing in the harbour not ok.
- Can harbours be separated out of quota management areas?
- Commercial fishing in harbour: want NO more.
- Seining & dredging restrictions.
- Would like to see more fish around.
- Catching fish – used to be quick, used to see the tails of the snapper feeding on pipi beds
- Recreation fishing is less productive than it was, with many blaming commercial fishing.

A high-angle, close-up photograph of a vast field of clams on a sandy beach. The clams are densely packed, filling the entire frame. They have a characteristic ribbed, fan-like shape and a mix of green, brown, and greyish-blue colors. The sand is a light, sandy brown. The lighting is bright, creating some highlights on the clam shells and the sand.

SECTION 2

2 Water Quality and Catchments

2.1 Ngatea

- The Gulf looks cleaner (the water) now than it used to.
- But the river is the second most polluted in the country according to Fish and Game.
- But it's better than it was.
- River (Piako) used to be black but clearer now, you can catch trout, whitebait.
- How much of the river relates to the tidal influence?
- 50 years ago you could swim in the culvert, channel near Shelly Beach, now it's full of mangroves, just a small narrow channel.
- There's lots being done by farmers to manage nitrogen now. Effluent containment systems are much better now, micro spraying, better monitoring by Environment Waikato. It's the free-draining soils further in the Waikato that are the problem.
- Way farm is rotated impacts on clover grass production. Farmers used to let grass grow longer before rotating so seed heads would develop, that doesn't happen now so can lose clover over several years. I add a bit of (clover) seed with the nitrogen fertiliser now.
- Farming on the plains, 200 ha, using sediment traps/floodgates to reduce sediment during late spring/summer. Gives a chance for sediment to settle out, retain it on the land.
- Farming has recognised the need to make changes – you need to have a sustainable income, over a long period of time. The Kopu swamp is a good resource – it's important to protect it – they're the "kidneys of the land".
- Some land is not suitable to farm as dairy. Like the marginal hill land slightly south and east of Ngatea. But some of that land that is being farmed is government farms – so government needs to improve too.
- There's also better technology now – a lot of nitrogen leaching in the Hauraki Plains originally due to clover not performing – because of the clover weevil. If we had better rye and clover grasses we could farm better, there'd be better fixing of nitrogen, once applied it would stay in the (farm) system.
- The Hauraki Plains are drier in the winter now than they used to be, more pugging? There are also more fish to be caught, more fish and less whitebait.
- I disagree that cow numbers have increased on the Hauraki Plains. Sure it's gone up by 20,000 but that's over 10 years.
- You're limited in cow density by the winter conditions on the Plain.
- There are a lot of old septic tanks around the coast, can't just blame farmers. Septic tanks have an influence on water quality too.
- Can't get a permit these days unless the house sections are large enough for septic tanks to improve.
- The Waihou River – used to swim in it as a kid, not a lot has changed really, it was muddy then and is muddy now.
- What's the impact of bigger water flows, in-flows??
- Apart from the 100 year floods, where is the sediment coming from?
- The beachfront/river mouth changes, with storms, it shifts with the seasons.
- Waihou River bottom – is very hard, just the sides that are muddy
- Muddier at the edges of the southern Firth of Thames, but a hard bottom further out.
- Behind Pak'n'Save, Thames, boys would walk both boats out to the channel (Piako). This was in recent times 5- 10 years ago.
- The bottom end of the Waihou – swam out to retrieve a sledgehammer I'd dropped off the boat, it was hard on the bottom, like the Hauraki Rd.

- I've also noticed changes in the mangroves. There isn't enough water flow, mangroves are trapping sediment.
- The Piako River has more sediment in it.

2.2 Thames

- In that time (10 years around 1985) the depth of mud decreased; now it is sandy.
- The sand/mud levels change depending on the tides, rivers, winds. It varies.
- I have seen paddle crabs appear. They like good quality water.
- I have seen a john dory in the Kaueranga River estuary. They only like clean water quality. I believe water quality has got better.
- Should buy Great Barrier. Has seen eutrophication making what was sand now mud and eel grass, and no scallops.
- Too many septic tanks causing this. How do you turn the pressure of people off?
- The rivers are better now than they were in the past. Effluent, sewage, etc. has stopped. River schemes planted trees, etc. to reduce silt. Nitrogen is the problem.
- I read a book about Netherton Bend (about 15km inland from the Firth) used to be sandy. Good that sedimentation in river is reducing.
- When get N or NE the colour of the Waihou is green, not brown. This is a good thing.
- Ohinemuri has improved a lot. Had world fishing champs there.
- Filter feeding cleaning up the Firth.
- In Firth, water is getting better not worse. Fishing is better.
- Firth is different habitat. In north is blue water. In south, mangroves provide sanctuary.
- Waihou and Piako Rivers are not so good. Effluent is controlled, \$50k fine ensures that. Even though I'm a farmer, if we have to do this we have to do this, for our kids. I like to protect river at Firth.
- Have seen pollution from waste increase e.g. one can collect a whole bag of mussel off-cuts in a week. Also bait packaging.
- Seeing algae outbreaks on the Piako River (worse) and Waihou. Affecting dogs' skin, have to take to vets. Dogs are retrieving in the river.
- Piako has no flow this time of year. That's why it's not good.
- We are thinking of the future, not just of today. It's not about money. It's about the kids. Trying to clean up on the farm.
- Want clean water.
- Water quality is good. Not so good in estuary areas.
- Need to make sure intensification in catchment is managed.
- Discharge to be high quality. Not solution by dilution.
- Keep water clean of viruses.

2.3 Whangamata

- The water was so much cleaner. Actually, the rivers were so much cleaner
- Tracks and roads impacted on the harbour. The silt had nowhere else to go but into the streams and rivers and into the harbour.
- In 1971 there were not too many mangroves around Martin Rd. In that time, you could see the harbour shallowing. I remember when you couldn't walk across streams without water filling your gumboots. Now, streams are dry. Pines are taking the water.
- Shellfish are a lot smaller today and have been affected by the harbour – perhaps this is a result of poor water quality. Pipi are very small.

- Water quality has been affected by clearfell of forest (Wentworth), some 3000ha of silt feeding into streams that feed into the Tairua River and into the sea.
- No or lack of riparian margin.
- Effluent from waste water management ponds still sprayed into the forest that makes its way to the sea. When there is torrential rain, this effluent is not able to be absorbed by the land and makes its way to the sea.
- I have what is called 'surfer's ears' and can't surf the bar without getting an ear infection within three days. Lots of surfers are affected.
- A lot of effluent still coming down from the forest and 6½ tonne per year per hectare of rotten mangrove mulch.
- Increase of humans, forestry, phosphate, roads, residents, homes, buildings.
- Want nice white sand around the causeway.
- Want a harbour with no mangroves, a clean harbour with sandy beaches.
- Councils should think 100 year plans NOT short term plans – think future sustainability.
- Far bigger catchment control e.g. Boom Creek – forestry and council not doing anything about what is going on there.
- I would love for my grandchildren to be able to surf the bar like I do now but in better quality waters.

2.4 Hamilton

- Small streams around Coromandel would happily swim them.
- Tairua Harbour was more sandy, especially the mud flat areas out from Tairua township.
- Wouldn't swim in the streams at Hot Water Beach, Hahei, Cooks Beach now, too polluted.
- Less sandy beaches in estuaries.
- Clean up the water! If you are in Greece the water looks clear but there is no fish life as there is no nutrients. We need clean water that supports aquatic life, need some nutrients, but need a balance and can't have all those nutrients from cow shit.
- Just coz water looks clean doesn't mean it is.
- With the Gulf it's about what's coming down the catchment. Look at the land that drains into it. It's rare through land based exercises that someone says 'what about the impact on the Gulf or the marine environment?' The commissioners don't mention the impact. Get the land aspect right, what's draining in to the Hauraki Gulf, and you'll get the rest right.
- Want water swimmable and drinkable (where it's not saline).

2.5 Coromandel

- Preece's point, mangroves silting.
- There's silt and mud in McGregor Bay.
- Oyster farms are too low down and trap silt.
- New stands, don't remove old ones, make mud more yucky.
- Silting is a major issue.
- Manaia Hill at bottom (popular paddock), cattle have access to streams, there's stream erosion everywhere.
- Silting, mangroves – chicken and egg, what came first?
- Boats turn out brown water/grey water, like motor homes, dump stations. Waste from recreational boat users goes everywhere.

2.6 Kaipatiki

- The water (of the Gulf) has to be clean. It's different (from how it used to be) now. It's silted up. (I hope we can) make sure the boats don't let their waste out (into the Gulf). We walk around Motutapu when the tide is out. There is so much silt there, and the mangroves are starting to grow (into it).
- I've been going to Islington Bay since 1951. It is mud, but getting in and out of the dinghy is hard because of the mud. Since they built the bridge (in Islington Bay) before the war the bay has been silting up. There used to be a good flow of water between the gap, but now the water's edge is getting further away from the land. And it is full of mud.
- There's an increase of people taking care of the bush and streams. Urban development has meant that in our local stream the scouring is just continuing.
- There needs to be stormwater systems that take care of water quality in the future.
- We're polluting an historic waterway. I've travelled a lot overseas. I went to Ephesus, where the wharves and that were. Where's the water now? It's 3 1/2 kilometres out to sea. That made me think we have to do something about our own waterways.
- We have gathered plastic and tins and things all our life. We used to get all our firewood from driftwood on Rangitoto. We baked bread on the beach every day. We only needed a little fire to do that.
- The young parents have been going on about all the plastic bags we were finding. The younger families are actually caring about things.
- My motto for Islington Bay is: Restore the tidal flow, find a solution, purify the water.

2.7 Waiheke Island

- The oysters were great at cleaning the mud out of the water.
- Wouldn't swim in Oneroa during the summer now due to pollution from yachts. Surfdale and Little Oneroa okay.
- Sea management on Waiheke is lagging, particularly discharge management.
- At the same time we need people and people living on boats – we need to find areas for people to go and provide them with facilities for disposal and then there would be no problems.
- Boats pollute [the water] because they don't have holding tanks.
- We have problems with septic overflow. The requirement to check every two years not policed properly and older houses like those in Little Oneroa are the worst.
- Happy with septic tanks if managed properly.
- Silt and clay washed down the driveways is not policed by Council. In winter there is clay everywhere. Makes the water cloudy. Enclosure Bay is cloudy from run off. Surfdale gets clay runoff.
- Runoff on the beach and from the creeks.
- Drought seem worst, rain is heavier.
- We love a good storm out here – hunker down, candles ready, pull the dinghies up the beach.
- We are really in touch with the weather. We know how much water is in our tanks. It's because we are on an island. We know to conserve water. We are hands on with nature.
- The oyster farms have cleaned the mud and the water too.
- The weather station measures the runoff, it's a problem.
- Oneroa is a disgrace, chocker with poo and toilet paper from the boats. You see it on the ripples coming in. It's disgusting. There are too many boats without holding tanks

- I swim a lot around at Oneroa and Palm Beach and you can see the water quality is different in Oneroa. In future with even more people and more boats we will have to police this somehow. Off Palm Beach some days there are over 200 boats in the summer. We need to police it.
- It's run-off too although I think this is pretty well contained from construction but the streams still run off and there are still tannins in the water leaching away but the soils here are so nonporous that you get that. The winter effluent comes up and then the rain washes it into the waterways.
- The septic and sewage systems are improving a lot.
- In some places like Rocky Bay the soakage is OK.
- I worry about the pollution from plastics.. It just breaks down smaller and smaller. The SW brings it over from Auckland too. Styrofoam they use in packaging. If we are not careful we'll end up like Hong Kong and Tokyo, you know. The beaches need a regular maintenance, say, annual cleaning at least so there's no build-up.
- There's a lot of coastal erosion. I don't know if it is sea level rise or not? We need some benchmarks so we can track it. It's hard to argue unless you've lived by the sea.
- There are two major rivers that come into the Hauraki Plains catchment area that are affected by intensive farming and raw shit flows into the Gulf.
- WRC need to sort out the water quality for them all.
- All rivers and streams need to be cleaned up and managed.
- ...make sure that boat people use holding tanks so the water is clean and accessible for people to swim.
- Want places to get rid of waste, a dump station. It is not responsible on the part of the Council.
- Sensible reticulation, affordable.
- No long drops.
- Want Little Oneroa free of Ecoil.
- Want authorities taking responsibility for clean water and clean air.
- I just want clean water. To manage what goes into our water ways. Whether it's the boats or humans, there are so many more of us taking over the planet, we just need to manage our waste so we don't stuff up the ecology. Population growth needs to be managed.

2.8 Upper Waihou

- Back then there used to be few farms who discharged effluent straight into it, back in the 50s. I wasn't born back then but I've heard stories. The eels were huge off the effluent.
- Every little town ran off the river.
- Lots of farmers used to dump off their farms. It got cleaned every flood.
- The science wasn't there then to say it's not okay.
- Most farmers had a gully, used to chuck a whole tanks full there. A lot of them still do.
- I remember hearing stories about how the big companies used to flush their muck all out. They've all gone or burnt down now, improved! The ponds use to stink. A lot of that UV processing now in-house.
- When I was just married and lived in Waitoa, my sister and brother in law used to live in the Waipara and there was a lot of river, there were a lot of farms, and the river used to be the boundary. Now there's so little water there that the stock walk across and go into other farms. They need to put boundaries back in now.
- When my brother bought his farm off my sister in law, he never used to have any fences along the river banks because it was so full. Now it's only in the winter after all the rain. Where has all the water gone?

- A lot of consents are applied for, they're all spoken about. It doesn't take much to figure, does it, that if you have so many companies looking for (water). They only wanted so many cubics, you've got to think about things.
- The services over water are all over-allocated now. In 2016 it's all going to change. Variation 6. That one of the reasons why all the water banks are fenced off now.
- At the end of the war there was a huge stockpile of N and P and they had to get rid of it so they used to just chuck it on the ground around here. The cows loved it.
- The sewage ponds are still there but they're not as extensive, they've got different systems now, they still have the biggest river in the Manukau going in there. Their discharge is the biggest river in Auckland!
- There's a real emphasis on effluent management, whether its land based, sealed ponds, riparian planting so that it's at least 30 metres from a waterway.
- We all have nutrient management budgets now. They're all requirements under the NPS and under the clean steam accord from Fonterra. So yeah, except from the odd one or two who like flouting the laws and the rest of us don't have any problems with them getting fines, most of us have seen the science and are taking steps to address the situation. But the scientists are telling us that there's an 80% delay. You're getting pinged now for stuff your father or grandfather did.
- You can get a quick turnaround. Ellesmere has gone really good in the last 5 years. Once the community comes on board you see results.
- We haven't used urea for years now. The cost is just huge.
- A lot of farmers are going greener, and finding it's cheaper and better.
- Now you're getting a lot more worm life. What about seaweed? Yeah the odd few are using seaweed now. There's a few guys getting into it yeah.
- Animals know when to get what they need.
- I've noticed over the years, so many more mangroves, subdivisions come along, build the house and it all just washes away.
- People who moved here 10 years ago are saying 10 years ago there weren't this many mangroves here. And they've got their sewage ponds up the hill and they're all draining down into it. So I wonder why. It's not hard to figure out why.
- I find I have two streams running on my farm and they're really clear at the moment. Clearer than I've ever seen them. . It's crystal clear now. Crystal.
- The family farm, the stream has always been brown, it's looking less brown now. I mean it'll always look brown after the sediment from the hills. But it's definitely better down there.
- I remember as a kid, you get a flood like this one just been, you used to see a few dead cows, the odd log here and there.
- Farmers used to drop the dead cows down the river bank and the floods came and off you go, it's how you used to get rid of that. You don't see that anymore.
- It'd be interesting to see with the riparian planting when they get big. The council comes past every 20 years and cuts them down anyway. They put the wrong trees up so they cut them down.
- You hear a lot more about algal blooms in Auckland and that.
- They close Mission Bay and all that with heavy rain. Maybe we should take all these Auckland Councils off and just let the land be.
- My concern is that Auckland and everyone will be protecting the Gulf and it'll be at the expense of the catchment where you have a \$2.4b dairy industry.
- I want a sustainable dairy industry in the Hauraki Gulf catchment. Sustainable dollar and environment.
- We'd really like to see an improvement in water quality, wouldn't we?
- I think the water quality is pretty good at the moment.

- More improvements in water quality. Contact sports. Swim in it. Meet current contact sport requirements. They tell you not to swim in it. It might have gotten better but it's still not safe. If they had the monitoring data back then, it may have told them not to swim in it either!

2.9 Milford to Long Bay

- Creek biodiversity changed a lot when the huge Northcote(?) development occurred due to all the sediment runoff.

2.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- The one thing I've noticed is sedimentation from all the developments. Now they put sediment ponds in. I can remember doing a dive course, and the person in front of you would kick up all the mud off the bottom. Stanmore Bay is always muddy. A few years ago it would have been clear. I notice the sand that came off the coast. The shell beds were corrugated. There was so much shellfish there.
- Some schools will do a snorkel in average water and then take the students up to Goat Island to see what clear water is really like.
- Sediment is an issue – visibility is very poor. It's clear at the Mokes but that's a long way but my 15 year old daughter dives now and she just thinks this water clarity is normal. She needs to see how it was.
- I've learnt that mangroves are present in relation to silt. I've seen some dreadful stuff done with mangrove removal in Tauranga, (where they were) left rotting in the harbour at Tauranga. We need to deal with the silt. Where they are growing is to do with the situation. I've lived along the Mahurangi and Puhoi rivers over the past 25 years and I've noticed an expansion of silt. It has just about clogged that river up completely. I'm worried the Jan Gifford won't be able to get up and down the river. Climate change, it's not a problem that's going away. It's going to get worse.
- In the Coromandel we've done a lot of research. Those harbours have in-filled by up to 2m from the logging days. A lot of good things have been done in recent times, but there's still some dichotomy in the development. In my work I can't lose a bucket of silt from my site. Last Wednesday in the rainfall event, there would have been 20,000m³ from clear-felling exotic forests in the catchment in this estuary, because the sediment run off is greater from farming than residential. There's ways of water polishing and silt catching options available for that.
- There's a huge sediment load in this estuary. On Auckland Anniversary, huge fans (of silt) came out from the Mahurangi with the rain. There's no subdivision work in the Puhoi River, but where the forest has come out, the mangroves have increased and I can see it's going to be reclaimed there soon. In this Orewa Estuary they decommissioned the sewer and because of that it's a lot cleaner. I recall heavy stormwater where manholes were flowing and raw effluent was in this river. There is an outflow and they are wondering where to send it. Currently it goes under the military base, but I believe they are investigating different options. The plant is so modern and they are continuing upgrading it. We should aim for 100% overland. I love wetlands They're the best thing ever – beautiful birds, the water being cleaned. I just love them! A few years ago the neighbours were worried about mosquitos, but the opposite has happened, because there's more happened. It's a lovely thing to look at it functioning so well.
- I would like to see all the exotic forest out of Coromandel. I don't think it is a sustainable activity with the climate and the topography. We have huge runoff problems with the Piako

and other rivers. They can be addressed, but it can be difficult to get agreement. I have a business for farm ponds and run off. I'm not fearful about where we are going. We can certainly establish values towards pre-European levels. The biggest problem is fighting a population explosion – then we may never catch up.

- The biggest water issue is water quality. I got pretty sick swimming off Kohimarama – as I was swimming it felt as if I was swimming in rubbish, with all the leaves and the runoff from the roads. I've swum off Little Barrier in clear water; it should be like that over the whole thing.
- I have noticed we get a lot of indiscriminate rubbish dumped on the banks of the Mahu(rangi) River.
- I have a two-year-old. I wish that he can be walking with his two-year-old and not get stuck in sediment and can swim in a clean environment with those recreational activities I have enjoyed.
- Toxic pollutants, like plastic and radiation, we need to establish guidelines on how we, in the future, deal with those things. They are going to get bigger.
- More clarity in the water, no deterioration in water clarity.
- For me it's water quality and the kids being able to take kids swimming on ANY beach. If the bottom of the seabed is nice and sandy that's even nicer to swim in.
- Kids and the future – I want to see clean sand under their feet, clean water under their arms – and a feed for all who want it.
- Clean water. I think there is something spiritual about crystal clear water. Our birth right to swim in the rivers but not any more. In Canterbury the farmers are trying to find a way to agree to finding a way to reverse the problem of our rivers
- The solid fertilizer companies have caused a problem with their marketing and encouragement to overfeed – the phosphate companies not the organic ones – they need to be part of the solution.
- My wish is for clean water.
- I think clear water is crucial to life, to us.

2.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- In the early days, it was shocking to see all the silt on the beach. Planting started at Green Bay, Portage Road, in 1989.
- As a kid, young and silly, I got stuck when the tide went out and had to walk my boat to Warkworth – the stench of the sludge I was walking in is something I'd never forget – the stench of raw sewage.
- Kayaking would get odour – sewage – but that has moved.
- In 1968 we bought a section at the end of Snells Beach and had a caravan and we still own the section. I've seen a lot of changes from no subdivision and it was shocking when new subdivisions came in and there was no silt control and it was going onto the beach. Reforestation: I did a huge one on Portage road, starting in 1989. That's my contribution. I know it's all bush now. I can remember when we got winkles and later they disappeared. We thought the aliens were killing them, but I now believe it was because of the silt. I now believe that was the reason we lost the scallops and got the eel grass. It crept up on us and suddenly it's there and it's a problem.
- I've only been here eight years. When I first came here I thought it was golden sand and I scratched the surface and it was sediment! I think they are doing it better now.
- I remember as a kid saying I could get to Warkworth in my yacht, but when I went recently I had to walk my boat; the raw stench of the mud was overwhelming and the stench was

disgusting. We used to go out rowing and at six or seven someone would come and get us and tow us home.

- I found where the brackish water started and when you kayak you become very observant. If the wind's blowing the wrong way the sewerage in the wetlands area was very strong.
- The water is improving in quality in the Mahurangi.
- Water quality in Mahurangi is getting better.
- Silt settles, brings mangroves.
- Cockles filtering water in Horseshoe Bay at Whangateau Harbour. This area is special regionally. Lost 80% of cockles due to disease (parasite). You notice the water clarity change with die-off – ask Roger about conditions.
- Sea grass will trap sediment and become muddy to walk on in some areas. But when it is on firm sand you don't get the same sludgy feel.
- Horseshoe Island in the Whangateau Harbour is a wonderful place to take people snorkelling. It's special in the Auckland region and it's one of the things the Whangateau Harbour Group wants to protect to maintain the good quality of the water. We lost 80% of the cockles in a disease outbreak and it was noticeable how less clear the water was then. They seem to be coming back now.
- The sea is safe to swim in – clean – birds continue to come unmolested. The family will come out and go snorkelling.
- The sea safe to swim in, clean of course.
- In 30 years I'd like to see all the riparian areas planted, up to the Queens Chain, to help repair the silt problem.

2.12 Kawau Island

- I've been sailing around the Gulf since 1985 and I think it is fine when you are on the water. Basically from a yachting's point of view it's relatively clean, especially around Kawau. We had the 'pack it in, pack it out' campaign for rubbish and that really worked, especially the Mansion House rubbish which used to be disgusting
- ... there are things we could refine – all over we should be thinking about the water. Some people are telling us how bad things are for overall quality of the water – we need to improve this then.
- Water and land for me are inseparable.
- I would like to go sailing and not see a slimy pond anywhere.

2.13 Great Barrier Island

- Beautiful clean water, bringing snapper up (on line) and them being chased by kingies.
- Water clear, then and now.
- I really worry about the stream health out to the bays.
- I worry about the changes in the water quality in the streams, the birds bathe in it and drink (the non-pelagic birds).
- The waves block up the stream mouths, the water becomes toxic, makes the dogs sick. There's a natural build-up of vegetation, we need to keep the stream mouths open.
- At Tryphena there's so many more people. That makes run-off from septic tanks, roads rubbish, it all ends up in the sand or in the water.
- There's this green (wet) dust algae. It has a smothering effect on the beach
- I worry about the algae that's like green toilet paper, it's like a mutant, it has a smothering the effect on the scallop beds, but dredging has had an effect as well.

- In the last four or five years we've got this algae. I call it snot weed. It is green and slimy and tendrilly. If you get it in your net you can't get it out. It starts as balls floating around. It's really invasive. I don't know what it is.
- There is lots of algae in the harbour. Stops us getting shellfish.
- Silt in the estuaries. It used to be fairly muddy. Now it is sandy and lots of waterways are fenced. It is nice swimming. It is clean. I can see all the estuary when I'm having a swim. I can see everything.
- Remember that there was kauri cut and logging. It's only now it is regenerating and the sand surface is getting firmer. There are some areas where you can walk out into the water and cockle beds are appearing on the sandy bottom.
- This silt. You know the rainfall in the last few years have halved, compared to the last 12 or 15 years, so that affects the runoff. In the early days in winter it would rain and rain and rain and so there was this silt. There are less cyclones now. The weather patterns have changed. We used to have 11 or 12 days of rain. A caravan came floating down from the firth of Thames after Bola in 1988.
- We have the beauty of the harbour and Aucklanders come for that, but they pollute. I would like all boats to be aware of what they bring out here, holding tanks for visiting boats.
- That the water is as clean as it looks.
- Reduce plastic and pollutants from the mainland to our island. I'd like an environment where we could be rubbish free

2.14 Devonport/Takapuna

- The water at Takapuna Beach is special, where we have swum for 45 years. We're unique in that you can swim at the end of the road on the North Shore. We (as part of North Shore City Council) paid extra to clean up the storm water and Auckland (City Council) didn't. The ends of the roads 40 years ago had (storm water and sewerage) discharges. Water quality is hugely improved now.
- ...What with that and Fullers emptying sewerage into the Gulf...
- The more that usage takes place the more people appreciate the water. Unless people have an experience of the coast they will think twice before they put plastic in the water. You have to have a coastal experience to care about
- Everything affects people's experience on the water. It depends on the quality of the water.
- I would hate to see the Gulf deteriorate...from bad water quality.
- Be aware of what's happening with stuff coming into the sea. The Waitemata collects lots of rubbish. We need to have stronger controls on the things that are happening where we don't know what the results will be.

2.15 Kaiaua

- Sedimentation impacting on access – boats used to be able to come up as far as the Miranda Bridge.
- The drainage of the Hauraki plains – wetlands, forest clearance – has meant we've removed the vital filtering system, we've removed the kidney.
- Changes in the vegetation make-up of the upper Kaiaua catchment.
- Stream flow has increased and looks dirtier.
- Slipping in upper catchment.
- Locally there are naturally high soil nutrients, meaning don't have to apply a lot of fertilisers.
- Mussel beds – changes in the Gulf mussel beds resulting in the Firth not being filtered.

- Whakatiwai stream – heavily impacted on with sedimentation.
- Harbour bridge & runoff into harbour.
- Water under wharfs of Auckland discoloration.
- Sewage overflows.
- Dumping overflow of sewerage into oceans.
- Used to be a scallop fisherman, and there used to be a huge scallop bed off Waiheke – east of Hook’s Bay. The scallops started dying...toxicity problem.

2.16 St Mary’s Bay

- Fine silt entering the sea water is killing all the shellfish and other life.
- Water quality varies – you can’t see anything in the water though – the water is mainly muddy and you can’t catch anything here.
- We need to think about design – water is so integral and important – we need to look at slowing down its passage and use of treatment techniques before it leaves a structure or enters a waterway.
- Watercare has been putting good stormwater traps to capture rubbish and pollutants which is a good thing.
- Biggest problem is rainwater runoff. The water is dirty.
- Water quality – step it up.
- Boys go to Catlins now for adventure as it is untouched/raw and clean.

2.17 Mercury Bay

- Clearing the land brought the silt back due to the kauri clearances and, before that, burnings.
- Clearance of Mill Creek and Kaimaramara brought silt into the water too.
- Clay areas washed off, grows very little cover. Same is true in Tairua.
- We had big storms – Bola in 1987.
- Whatever happens on the land ends up in the water. Huge effect from farming and forestry – same as what happens in the Auckland Harbour has an effect down here.
- The sea is not a dumping ground, nobody throws anything off my boat, we all respect the place and try our hardest to do so – its where we play, it’s our farm.
- The ocean itself has an ability to fix itself – leave it alone to do this even just a couple of years to re-adjust.
- Ocean can disperse and dilute.
- Wish for a clean environment water – must become cleaner than it is today.
- I expect to drive over the Kopu and the Waihou bridges in the next 20-30 years and see a 50% improvement in clarity of the water – no floods and no sediment from forestry.
- Clear rivers.
- People come together to improve the water and are proud.

2.18 Maraetai

- Council changed the way the river ran into the sea and now it’s sludge and stones.
- The banks of the rivers and depth have changed.
- The river is much shallower and this seems to have changed the weather patterns too.
- Kawakawa Bay – there is lots of sediment from coastal erosion.

- Big boats could get right up into the estuary.
- The biggest change I've seen is the increased sediment in the river – this may be from the dams in the Hunuwas.
- The engineering around the dams has increased and Watercare do not have to flush the dams any more.
- This has caused increased sediment build up due to lack of water flow down the river.
- This has changed the depth of the moorings over the past 15 years (when the dams got stronger) which are now very shallow.
- A few years ago there was a big storm and they [WC] had to flush the dam – this flooded the river course and washed away our moorings, also flushed livestock down the river. WC denied this.
- Sediment and water clarity. Clarity has always been poor up the Waihou.
- There used to be mussel beds throughout that were dredged – losing these must have had a large effect on the water – be great to see these back again.
- Since the rahui on cockles and the new sewage treatment plant we've seen a massive increase in the amount of snapper and other species – orca come right in now chasing rays etc. The water has become cleaner and the increased amount of cockles has provided food for the ecosystem to come back.
- For me it's about water quality and taking away from the coast everything you brought with you – the plastics and the cans. The old practices of clearing up after yourself don't happen so much anymore. Educate boaties.
- I think the little things matter – the whitebait, the cockles. That means land use is important – say for inanga to follow their life cycle. If we control sediment we get water clarity for filter feeders especially where both sides of a channel have a bit of protection (planting). From the little things, the big things are sustained – a good paddock gives good seabeds.
- Cleaning up our storm water and drains – water quality is a major – means making a difference. There are small things we can all play a part in and it all adds up to the bigger picture.
- What we can go and do here is unbelievable, compared to places around the world. It stays that way, that's my wish. Anything that comes out of our water you can eat.
- We want a pristine beautiful harbour, enhance this or at least preserve it. It is something special and we don't know how lucky we are. In the end it's adding value to us all.

2.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- The water needs to be as good as it can be for the fish stocks then it will be okay for the rest of us. I think water quality is absolutely imperative.
- I've had seven years of great adventures on the Gulf. I am a newcomer and I want to see it stay the way it is but with better water quality. I'd like to be able to catch a fish.

2.20 Hobsonville

- We went to the beach. There weren't any mangroves but the bottom is always muddy up here.
- We went floundering, eeling, swimming, boating – there were pipi and cockles at Mission bay and Kohi.
- Back then there were some integrated catchment plans done and they seem to have worked.

- In the Henderson Creek there was stuff off the stadium developments from the zincalume they used, there's the stuff off brake linings. We saw little white pellets, white plastic beads coming from the factories. Some of this hasn't happened for a while now.
- Areas we own 'in common' get looked after the least, whereas we are all actually stakeholders.
- Cox's Bay was one of the worst – no swimming signs and warnings. The old tip still has leachate and the bay is really not very accessible.
- In 1979, Gulf Harbour was pristine water. It was crystal clear and then the development started. Now it's mud.
- You could swim in the Henderson Creek and there was shell on the bottom.
- 30 years ago the Council used to do stuff. Water pollution at Herald Island was blamed on the yachties but when the Council did the studies they found that after a big tide there were heavy toxins when the tide came out of the mangroves. When it washes out, the pollution is released. It wasn't the boaties at all.
- Our parents wouldn't let us swim when there were pump-outs.
- In the Pacific you could play around on the reefs, a real playground with sharks and clams – the reefs were a living environment. The reefs in the Pacific are now pitiful with all the herbicides and so on from the land – what happens on the land goes into the sea.
- There is less pollution today and more to go to make the Gulf cleaner.
- But there's more plastic in the sea and the pollutants are different.
- There doesn't seem to be runoff around Huapai any more.
- We need to be looking at the environment from the water point of view.
- There's a floating rubbish collector been around here for years.
- The coasties and even the farmers, water minded people, pick up the rubbish but not the townies. We pick it up ourselves otherwise the wife gives you a clip!
- Tidy Kiwi – whatever happened to 'Be a Tidy Kiwi'?
- At Long Bay it's working the approach to rubbishing the water.
- Urban streams remain a dumping ground – 0800 Gulf – who is that these days?
- 6 months ago a launch sank at Riverhead and lots of diesel leaked. We contacted the Harbourmaster who sent the Coast Guard but there was no attempt to contain the spill.
- Runoff is going to be an issue – people are not so mindful now about the upper harbour as they were.
- Marinas are continually dredging – they have gone against the natural cycle of the water and it will cost a bomb.
- Clean up the land, clean up the Gulf.
- No cigarette butts on beaches.
- I would like to see fishers and the boaties who own businesses sorting out their packaging – polluter pays?
- Complete awareness. My wish would be that it is as natural as breathing to us all that what we put in the rivers and on the land ends up in the sea. How connected we are to what happens around the Gulf. Rubbish goes someplace.
- Bring back 'Be a Tidy Kiwi'.
- Clean streams so that children can enjoy water in the future.
- Cleaner the water, more fish, more fun.

2.21 Tairua

- Sediment: Sand bars, infill in harbour.
- Deep water areas filled in.

- Saltwater paspalum.
- Sediment: Removal from harbour, rather than have to be relocated to another area.
- Silt/mud: can it go back on land?
- Need to be careful with placement of soil.
- Natural process of harbour infilling.
- Offshore islands – diverse, clear water.
- 99% of people are great and take their rubbish.
- Still getting plastic beads from Rena!
- Want silt reductions in harbour.
- Water quality – paralytic shellfish poisoning.
- TCDC uses the estuary as a stormwater dump with numerous pipes entering the harbor at various points around the foreshore.

SECTION 3



3 Accessible Gulf

3.1 Ngatea

- There's an ex-farmer that lived here – he misses the fishing now he's in the South Island.
- Guy from Oamaru – he retired to Whitianga for the fishing.
- Fish all over the Gulf, want to retain access. It's important to do all activities – going to the beach, picnicking, fishing.
- It's the oysters that restrict access, making the Waihou and Piako channel shallower. They are spreading.
- It's the atmosphere, the fresh air, whales, dolphins, birds – the expectation and anticipation of what you might see out there (while fishing).
- Our boat is a 'stress' boat. Farmers fish on it – they've having a bad time farming, and go fishing as soon as the cows are done. One guy slept on the boat half the day but when we came back said he hadn't felt so refreshed in a long time.
- While you're out fishing you forget the world.
- I deliver tourists up and down the coast. The coast has a special peaceful quality. At Te Mata beach I dropped this American lady off for a walk in the water along the beach. Within a couple of minutes she was star shaped in the water. I picked her up after her trip. She slept really well the whole trip. She said, "I had so much energy (while staying there) I never stopped going".
- Taking my two grandkids out in the boat – they live in Auckland – their smiles made it one of the best days ever.
- Depends – different people find different activities relaxing. Some might like jet skiing...
- Game fishing – you get to talk about fishing, the common goal.
- All you need are beers, mussels and fish to stay alive.
- Different cultures have different likes for food gathering e.g. small pipis, cockles. You see a couple of vans come up onto the coast here – there's more human pressure.
- Tuatuas in Pauanui, more and more numbers of people at Waikawau. It has the best fishing for snapper in NZ. Waikawau is an all weather, all tides boat ramp. It's safe, has toilets, decent parking.
- More access is needed. There is more demand from people now.
- There's nothing between Kaiaua and Kawakawa Bay (for boat access). (A boat ramp at) Colonel Adams (just south of Kawakawa Bay) would give better all-weather access.
- All weather access is quite a problem.
- There's a very good concrete ramp at Stevenson's quarry – it's a private ramp.

3.2 Thames

- In the past, using, fishing, netting. Seen great changes.
- Need places to connect with nature, the "breathing space".
- Not many places you can do what we have (fishing and shooting). It's free and easy! One can't do this in many other places in the world.
- Conserve this for the future.
- It's all revolving around the big puddle of water out there.
- This place is a gem. Can't do this stuff anywhere else in the world.
- Had lots of orcas. This shows what a fantastic place this is.
- Value untouched/undeveloped parts. They're beautiful. Some short-term interests have destroyed some beautiful places. Protect surf breaks.

- Concerned about overall degradation. May appear to be better, based on crayfish numbers. But not so good overall.
- Working on the rivers. I like Whangaparaoa – I have a property there.
- Every day is difficult. On eastern side of Coromandel, one can catch up to 9 different sorts of fish. Fishing on that side has been difficult.
- Enjoy driving along the west coast of Coromandel. Should leave it the way it is.
- Appreciate the fishing. It's good.
- Should leave things better.
- The sense of space.
- Protect surf. Lots of people use it. Not always appreciated the numbers of people who surf.
- Want more education.
- The beautiful peninsula. The coast drive is always difficult. All the way up to Fletchers Bay. Some wonderful sights which can't be put into words.

3.3 Whangamata

- I remember when I used to collect obsidian off the beach. It was a very important place for Māori because it was a safe harbour to sail in and out of. Māori would sail over to Tuhua from Whangamata and collect loads of obsidian and bring it back. Obsidian was graded on the beaches and often used in trade.
- I enjoy surfing and it hasn't changed.
- It was a sparse population in 1951 – not as many houses, beautiful beaches, windy gravel roads.
- In the dry summers, I used to be able to row across the harbour to the waterfall. It's not there now.
- I recently dug two feet deep in my backyard and hit a shell bed.
- Thankfully I had the good fortune to be taken to the Gulf from the early 60's onwards. A selfish few denied access in certain places. Oysters off the rocks and mussels to suit. Fish aplenty with grandad's fishing stories passing the time between baits.
- Huge impact and number of boats on the sea, e.g. Hikurangi – boats staying on the water longer in bigger groups (50 boats in one spot).
- Residential expansion restricting access.

3.4 Hamilton

- Massive changes with urban development right throughout Coromandel. Memories of visits to Cathedral Cove and being the only ones on the beach! Has not been like that for a long time.
- There are now more tourists and less wilderness experiences
- Want recreationalists to have access maintained to the Gulf, need good facilities.

3.5 Coromandel

- You never used to see anyone on the islands, now there's people all over.
- There's rubbish all over the islands from recreational fishing. Charter boats dropping them off.
- Want tracks around the coast.

3.6 Kaipatiki

- My dad has had a bach at Islington Bay for many years. He's 93 now. We've been going there for years. Islington Bay used to be a real community then (in the 1950s). There used to be over 135 baches and now there are just around 50 or so. There used to be (boat) races over the summer. There's not such a sense of community now. I still go to the bach for 4 months of the year.
- My parents seemed to be working most of the time, building and fixing houses. We made our own fun. We would go down to the (Chelsea) sugar works and had a marvellous time. We made walls of dams and had wars with mud; we would go down and jump across the water; we swam and walked everywhere, to the Birkenhead wharf and down to Chelsea wharf.
- We used to go to the dances on Waiheke. Lofty Blomfield had a dance hall there. It was at Oneroa. I still walk from Matiatia over to Oneroa, and down to Ostend. There were wharves all around: at Matiatia, Ostend, Rangi wharf and Islington, a private wharf and Yankee wharf. The navy was there on Rangitoto.
- If you had a boat you could get out there (into the Gulf). Plywood made it possible for people to afford a boat. It was cheap and strong.
- I think it's sad. There's all these places people have been to and (people) now won't be able to go. I just think how much kids today will miss. They will never experience the freedom to explore the rock pools and the little inlets.
- The harbour's wonderful. There are special places everywhere, rivers and harbours. How do our young people get to the nooks and crannies? These young families are going to find it hard to get out in the Gulf. People haven't thought about what they are missing out on.
- In the next 30 years I'd like think the Gulf should be used by lots of people. Years ago 3,000 people would go to Cowes Bay for the Day. They never had cars in those days and they used to go up to Herald Island and to the (Chelsea) sugar works picnics and to Motuihe. You can camp at Home Bay now, but you have to have your own transport boat to get there. They used to (have a little boat). Now what are they doing?
- The biggest job is to teach their children to survive on nothing – light a fire and make food. If we have catastrophes your kids need to know how to survive.
- Thinking of boating expeditions, I'm a land lover. I love the coastline. I went to Rangi as a school child. It's a place of adventure and tramping. I love the natural coast line and when the tide's out it's a great place to have adventures. I've been going on the coastal challenge from Arkles Bay to Devonport. You have to swim and run around the rocks. You have a lot of fun and it's challenging. You could try to go right around Motutapu while the tide was out. There's the Dual at Motutapu and I do that too in March. I do love going around the rocks when the tide's out. I like to be an advocate for the more rough adventures, because there is a tendency to make everything smooth and safe, but in the future there will be people who want a real sense of adventure on unmodified landscape. On Waiheke sedentary rather than volcanic, you get a great sense of adventure. You can look down into the water. You might even fall into the water! You can see and smell the sea weed. You've got your own little world of rock and you can have a great sense of adventure. Some people have made concrete paths down to the rock, but I'd like the rocks to be pristine, as much as possible, and I hope that sort of coastline will be available to adventure seekers in the future.
- People who live here are lucky. After my childhood in Hamilton, the kids here have so much more opportunity to explore the water. I hear the boaties don't discharge as much waste as they used to. When they are out cruising now, darling, we dare not do that! There's always a damn rogue taking our boat number.

- There is such an interest in this (Sea Change project). We went out in a boat with Marge with a cuppa tea and I thought that was lovely. She allowed me to look inwards at Birkenhead and the houses. Marge's photos of what Hellyer's Creek used to look like are fabulous. The sailing ships went there for water. They anchored and took barrels in dories to the lagoon and got their fresh water.
- It's ironic that the three ladies here have this history of frolicking on the water's edge. We've lost that now. It's a shame that others will miss out on it.

3.7 Waiheke Island

- There were fewer people 20 years ago, fewer rules and more fish.
- Boats did not go as fast.
- It was generally quieter. Didn't have noisy jet skis in the bays.
- When we were children, [the Gulf] was the only playground – the beach and the sea. We made our fun on our own doorstep, used our imagination. This was before the Harbour Bridge.
- Some areas were less accessible. There is more opportunity for children to do things now.
- Certain problems related to fewer rules now have more and less rules, e.g. years of problems with boating – moorings. Specifically effects from no sanitation and the costs associated with removing people living at the moorings with no intention of moving on.
- There was resentment of new people coming to the Island. An aggressive element, which still lingers. Negativity to progress.
- Lots of fun, solid recreation, could catch fish.
- Boaties would share more. We all knew someone who would take you sailing – over to Coromandel and on adventures.
- When the Quick-Cat started, that was the beginning of the end really. It was the time they started subdividing up the island, Matiatia into blocks. But also did planting.
- We had to walk everywhere. Walking along the beach was wonderful – there was access to Cactus Bay.
- A weekend place, people come to renovate home with their little kids. The beach was our play space.
- Life was marginal, isolating. Communication was with family.
- In the 1990's the island was viewed as a place of the DPB and alternative lifestyles, wearing caftans and smoking dope.
- It was full of interesting community groups.
- It was affordable to buy and to rent. Rent up dramatically in the last 5-10 years.
- Couldn't have afforded water front anywhere else [in the world]. Coastal living was affordable.
- Orapiu was a picnic destination for Aucklanders.
- There were separate communities – Eastern End/Rocky Bay/Ostend/Oneroa.
- There've always been good community groups with things to do. More people were involved in community activities.
- The choral group theatre was a local community group, has been going a long time. In the north we had youth nights but not now.
- We were a lot more community based, not like now. The wineries target tourists in their 20s, it almost excludes the locals.
- Lots of fundraising.
- Used to be able to go hop to other islands.
- Motuihe used to be where we went for dinner events and cruises.

- After picking up the kids from primary school, we would head down to Palm Beach with a book, wind down, it was beautiful.
- A large number of people arrived on Waiheke when the Quick-Cat started. They say I live 'on' Waiheke but those people brought their food with them and their kids went to school in town. We say we live 'in' Waiheke.
- I came here about 1983 with a young family and set up a small business. Lifestyle was amazing, play centres, small groups.
- When we were growing up (4th generation on Waiheke) it was just the same as growing up in the country. There was plenty to keep us occupied and busy helping out around the farm. That was our enjoyment. Kids came home when they were hungry.
- In the schools the kids all grew up together in the same class or generation – they moved along together and so did the parents. Especially all the fundraising. We are still always fundraising 20 years later!
- Waiheke is more accessible now.
- More people, who have never been to Waiheke before, are visiting for a coffee.
- Locals can access the mainland now more easily. Cheaper to go to concerts in town with the Gold Card.
- We are blessed and have to do our best to keep it!
- Have to save the coastal landscape. This landscape is some of the best in the world.
- We realise how lucky we are.
- Before coming to Waiheke, we maybe had two swims in the sea but since moving to Waiheke, I swim every day from September to May. Lots of people do.
- Love the freedom of the Gulf.
- People still need somewhere to tie up their boat, access to beaches and able to live somewhere.
- Particular identity as practical people. The people that come here have a collective something. We are gutsy, outspoken, generous, care about each other and are not indifferent. Have an opinion.
- There is negative opinion to wealth. Most people worked very hard and made their own fortune. More caring committees than anywhere else in the world, contributing to charities for others. People here are very generous.
- Feel safer on a small island than in Auckland. Able to wander at night and feel safe. Not everyone is well behaved but have an idea who the trouble-makers are.
- People are kind to each other, we know our neighbours.
- Don't have the mix of young and old.
- There is a price to pay for living in paradise!
- Obesity is rising everywhere but not on the Island. No fast food here, great lifestyle. We are only 30 minutes from downtown Auckland. A fantastic place to bring up children.
- Like to retain access to our beaches for our children so they can always have access to them, e.g. Cactus Bay, can only access by water.
- Maybe we could have 'access shafts' like the Council 'view shafts'.
- Have common walkways – like a right of usage.
- Keep common access to the coast.
- Want access to each bay.
- Retain the walkways.
- Want camping facilities.
- Ensure can still see the sea.
- Boats more accessible to the general public than before.
- I'd like there to be tons of room still on the beaches.

- People should have as wide an experience here as possible – there's the outdoors, swimming and walking tracks. We are having a walking festival here soon and there's the sculpture trail and stuff like that. That could be promoted.
- Maintain a great lifestyle where kids can grow up. People are coming back but it's not affordable any more. Elderly got priced off the island or stuck here because couldn't afford a [ferry] ticket.
- Maintain access to the beaches. I am finding it hard to run the school camps I used to hold because I can't access the same places e.g. Cactus Bay. How many beaches are going to be accessible?

3.8 Upper Waihou

- Being able to walk along beaches. Looking back now they were relatively unspoiled beaches.
- On Rangitoto you used to be able to camp on the link between Motutapu and Rangitoto. Camping there was pretty incredible. – You used to be able to camp overnight. There was a sense of isolation. You used to have a million people across the water and no one there on the island. You could see all the stars coming out. It was a real isolating experience.
- It was simple. It was a simple time.
- The campground was simple.
- You can't turn the clock back.
- You can go walking up Rangitoto Island in the middle of the night and you're able to see all the lights come on.
- I don't go swimming much. I don't like the cold water.
- I wasn't much for swimming either but we used to go to the rocks.
- Grandpa used to go around the rocks and pick up the pipi and oysters. It was safe then. You could eat it. There was no nasty toxic things. It was okay, it was always safe. Those resources (pipis and oysters) were there.
- When we were camping, there were families in Motutapu. There was a long history – families used to go for the whole summer, year after year. Home Bay used to have big carnivals on Motutapu, carnival day where hundreds of people used to come. They used to paint the buildings and do lots of work.
- Kids from this area used to go there. The high school still goes there.
- Big thing I remember was the Waihou used to be lined with big willows. If you were a duck shooter it was fantastic, or a fisher. They got taken out a few years ago for flood control.
- No trees, no sandflies, no trout
- There's a cycle way around harbours now. It's starting to improve now. Got rid of the sewage ponds along the river, all sort of been opened up.
- It's just a lot more 'manicured'. You have lost the naturalness of it. You get the walkways and cycleways. It's more 'civilised', less natural, all the harbour ways and everything, it's just much more structured and unnatural.
- There are things allowing people access now. Getting to be more farm parks, aren't there.
- Boaties have always gone out really, but there seems to be much better access now.
- We need better areas; it was a nice place to go because there wasn't thousands of people so you need to have lots of big open spaces for all the people.
- Places like that (Te Kouma) are really good – they bridge the rural urban divide.
- Auckland seems to be the 'regional park' people.
- For the grandchildren, some beaches that are left in kind of an original state, so they're not all like Paku Hill in Tairua so there are some natural areas. Yes I think the Waikato Regional Council is very remiss in not wanting farm parks and regional parks by and on the coast.

- The family were making a big sacrifice. They could subdivide it and make millions. I'm really wanting to see a Te Kouma Park.
- I'd like more of the community involved. It seems like it's quite isolated in terms of preaching to the converted, you know, and in some way I'd like to see the greater community to take responsibility.
- A lot of older people now say they used to swim in the river. The kids all go in and swim and have a raft swim all the time and people used to fall off.

3.9 Milford to Long Bay

- It was safe, occupied, a bit less busy – not as many people.
- It was...dusty roads.
- 30 years ago we were gathering rubbish that had floated down from the streams.
- My kids used to sail flying ants 30 years ago.
- Ron Holland came and spoke to us recently of growing up in Torbay, sailing flying ants – it was the sport and environment that speared on his passion for boat design.
- You could catch fish from the shore.
- We met with a gang of parents at the northern end of the beach and would bring the portable BBQ.
- We would put the dinghy in the water at Beach Haven and catch a feed near Chelsea sugar mill.
- You never heard of beach closures back then (+30yrs) then you got a lot of beach closures but these seem to have diminished a little of recent years.
- We need to protect what we came here [to live] for.
- Physical access is key – it is completely different now.

3.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- At Pakiri we were able to drive right out there, we were able to just stay overnight and go out surfing. Trees were being planted for forestry in the early 70s. As a teenager I had a car and would camp at Te Arai, where the Te Arai quarry was being mined. We would bring out our own food.
- Over the past 30 years my playground has been from Pauanui in the south to Kawau in the north – a lot of game fishing every year, a lot of diving, tramping, flying (helicopters), so I know every inch of the coastline. I've been taking advantage of the amenity bank of the Gulf. Not many people like me do. It's a wonderful asset, world class. We are doing high-end development designed to deliver high level environmental outcomes. Our people treasure and enjoy the benefits of what's on offer now and want to look after it and preserve it. All three of my children have been in the Gulf. All spend time on the launch – they all dive and fish. It's very much part of family recreation time. All of that is spent on the water – 300 hours boating in a year.
- I grew up in the crescent here. The only rule was to be home when the evening lights came on. We pushbiked everywhere, fishing in the estuary, gathering kai moana – pipis mainly. We also went whitebaiting and yachting with my mother. My dad had a caravan at Martins Bay and Scandretts Bay, so we got to know the families there. We had adventures around the rocks, and in the Sunburst, pretending we were castaways. We had parents who didn't mind the boys being out in the Gulf. We went to sea scouts down here and had real neat adventures, free camping, finding a bay, knock on someone's door and ask if you could camp. It was a more relaxed time. I have teenagers, but we seem to live in a different world.

- My main involvement was lots of surfing trips. We would zoom up to Omaha – we lived in Epson then.
- Kids can snorkel at Goat Island but it's a long way to go.
- Today's demographic at Shakespeare Park has changed. It's very different with Indian, Chinese, Pacific Island and most migrant families. It is great to see them.
- I went around on New Year's Day and didn't hear an English speaking family anywhere. They love the beach – it is very social. Worth talking to and finding out what they love about the coast – what they want from the Gulf. There are hordes of them. Sometimes there can be a raiding party but mostly I believe they value the place and the food – the cockles
- At the Glenelg Reserve people collect kina.
- There are more recreation toys. Some are a bit annoying, like jet skis. We've seen a huge change – a mixed bag, some good, some bad, and today there's quite a contrast in activities.
- The sealed roads make it easy to get to the Gulf. It used to be gravel roads, and it took you a while to get to the beach, but now more people are using it. It's a compound effect of population increase, so you have to manage it.
- I wish that we can make the coastal areas for everyone to have access to and that we really look after those areas. Education is very important.
- ... and also for education. Every school should be able to have a trip and look at what it looks like.
- We've got a world class resource – t's easy to boat, safe to boat, a huge resource for recreation and tourism. We should be looking at enhancing the value of that for fishing and boating. But the value doesn't come from just the economy. It comes from Kiwis coming to enjoy it, and visitors. You can get as much and more dollars from that.
- The recreation opportunities, accessibility, meaning lower socio-economic groups can go camping. Fix it so some are only charged for between 4pm and 9am. Get rid of the non-toileted caravans and make it more friendly for the tourists.
- I would like to see access for my great grandchildren for everybody to get on a boat, not to be charged fees, not told to get out of my bay. For me it is about access. Common access for all.
- The coast is part of a lifestyle for everybody – lifestyle is an enlarged word – discovery, adventure is part of the way of life.
- Sounds of the sea.

3.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- Boating – love HG – what better than to be able to take the boat to Kawau.
- The beach and sea brought us here.
- My son used to crawl on the trees at Buckletons in 1965. We had the first new house there. We used to play beneath the pohutukawa, then they built a sea wall in. As a 12 year old never understood why. We had Wendy and Peter Pan places everywhere.
- My aunt managed the motor camp. We loved walking rocks from Sandspit to Snells – seemed like a huge adventure.
- Dad had a 12 foot boat – he was a great builder. My friend and I would go boating, just the two of us. I would stand on the back with a spear. It was very hazardous when we changed tack!
- We had a clinker dinghy – everyone had some kind of boat.
- We'd walk to the end of beach and it took forever.
- We were so free, we'd sail to the islands and our dad would come out and tow us home at about 6:30-7pm.

- Got a dinghy and my life revolved around tides. Would net for flounder. Seagulls. Saw brackish water up the river...
- The pohutukawa were there for my children when my son was crawling and they will still be there for my grandchildren. We went shark fishing. We had one as long as the dinghy once! There used to be a prolific amount of flounder. We just love the Hauraki Gulf, particularly Kawau Bay. What better than to put your boat in and go to Kawau Island for a picnic.
- What drew me – the beach, the sea, family. We were close enough, but not too close.
- Memories from teenage years: my parents managed the Sandspit motor camp. We used to love walking around the rocks, from Sandspit to Snells Beach – seemed like a huge adventure! Dad had a little 12 foot boat that he'd built. It had a quarter deck on it and I can remember being out in the boat with a seagull on the back and we would try to spear stingray. If we caught a stingray we'd turn the boat and the boy (on the deck) would fall off the other side. Then we had a little clinker dingy and if we walked to the north end of the beach it seemed forever away.
- My kids and a neighbour's boy would start the boat at Rainbow's End. When they would get back, I would strip 'em naked, wash 'em down and take their clothes and water blast them. They had their mud clothes. You get more jet skis going up the river now. They go fast!
- Kids are not experiencing the joy, freedom, and amount of fish that we saw.
- My kids would walk mudflats for hours and would come home covered in mud – I'd get the warm soapy water in a bucket, strip them, then send them to shower while we water blasted their clothes.
- Recreational uses – it's used more of a playground than a food bowl now. It's more an entertainment park.
- Recreationally and for beach goers at times it (sea grass) can be a problem and it will trap sediment and become muddier to walk on. But at other places it just grows in the sand and you can walk over it.
- I'd like to (and I guess everyone does want to) freeze frame the good bits. I'll put on my NIMBY hat. We get touted as a playground for Auckland but the locals are better conservators because it's their patch. You have to look at where people play, you have to anticipate that and make sure they don't play so hard and undo all our good work. I'd like to see how we use it and make sure others who come in don't thrash it.
- I'd like to see the headland remain green and houseless.
- Kawau Bay has always been a playground – it's very safe, relative to anywhere else. You have people watching over it all the time. I hate jet skis!
- The headlands, the vistas are incredible. I would like to see them remain, from here to Big Bay. It's so tempting to see that as an extension of Auckland, covered in houses, and I would wish that those were re-clothed in bush. Re-clothing has to be done in partnership with the local community, not the planners. They have a tendency to view the resident as an ecological vandal.
- I'd like to see it preserved as much as possible in its most natural state. Also want to see it used with a conscious and caring approach.
- Everyone wants to freeze-frame environments and there is a real NIMBY feeling.
- Be careful how and where people play – need to make sure that they don't play so hard that they ruin what and why they came to play here for in the first place.
- Locals tend to be more conservative.
- Need to look at where people play and make sure they don't undo what we have done.
- Headlands/vistas are critical – would like to see these remain pristine.
- Concern – sail down the coast now and it is pristine – do not want the loss of beauty.
- Should be increased percentage of Regional Parks per capita as population grows.
- I wish your grandchildren can walk along Algies Bay and see the golden oysters haze.

- Expand regional parks at same rate as population.
- Keep land around the coast.
- In terms of margins, take that as public domain.
- When the sun comes at a particular angle you can see the golden shells; I wish that my grandchild could walk along Snells Beach and see the golden oysters; they pitched up here and it was like a beautiful golden haze.
- In the context of the UP it's been suggested that we do not build out the headlands. There's an awful lot of land around the coast that we need to keep in the regional park domain. You also have to look at the zoning. Everyone wants a place with a view, on the ridges, on the edges. This is a public space first and if you are there you are in a privileged position. There's only so much land. It's all integral to the Gulf.
- My concern is that we will act too slowly, so that we will lose those headlands that are absolutely iconic to this area. You sail along the coast and you see houses popping up all along the coast.

3.12 Kawau Island

- All we did back then was drink, eat, fish, walk and enjoy others company.
- There is more community today based around book club, Camp Bentsen and the Yacht Club – has brought people together however.
- Population is now very different as isolated residents and independent visitors do not add to the community feeling.
- As a child we used to put the flag up or a tea towel or washing to let people know who was in and we wandered house to house, whereas now there is an attitude of where is the boundary and am I allowed in here?
- Comes partly as a result of greater population and also a more legal view
- Am I allowed to be here? Do I have a right to walk on here whereas people used to be welcomed and felt privileged. Some people with weekend homes come to get away and stay isolated in their houses for the weekend.
- After the Night Race to Kawau, people used to run around to your place but now there are no paths anymore to get around. My nephew came and remembered that in the past you could get around no problem.
- There is a generational attitude change and no track right around to connect people.
- The boat and the water are the connecting points – access is a big issue.
- It's much more expensive to be here now.
- Here the activities are different from Point Wells, Tawharanui Matakana – here you can go for a peaceful walk on the roads and enjoy day excursions.
- The Mansion House has been cleaned up but it doesn't operate like Scott's Landing or Wenderholm. There are lots of volunteers to staff the Mansion House.
- There is a feeling here that we enjoy our own place and don't necessarily want to become a destination and lose our identity.
- Camp Bentsen is a real joy for all the hundreds of kids who visit here. The hairdresser has been coming here for 30 years and she says the island nourishes people including the school children who visit.
- There is less yachting – about ¼ now.
- Want no roads, better fisheries, acceptance of private land and public access/ownership and the difference between the two – improve and share the public areas.
- I wish that my house would go to people who enjoy it as I have, catch fish, go up into the ti trees and contemplate their navels!

- I've put three photos of Kawau on Facebook and asked people what they notice. Oh there's no rubbish on the beach, no tins, no plastic bags. We had the biggest clean up I've ever seen on the Gulf – keep it like that.

3.13 Great Barrier Island

- The Surfing's magic! It pulled me to the island.
- Only a few people used seaweed for their gardens, whereas now people know how good it is.
- Back then there were more sailing boats. It was easy going, more family orientated. It was very friendly. Party atmosphere. You could cross the harbour walking over everybody's boats. Now we are being invaded by aliens. Hand lines, not those whizzy things.
- I've been surfing here for 25 years.
- At the northern end of Kaitoke, Palmers Beach, as youngsters we would shoot rabbits.
- We'd go sailing to Gisborne and North Cape and all around, only sailed round the Island here once – the bay was empty.
- People's expectations around lifestyle have changed. A few years back, people were happier with simpler things.
- Feels like there was no rubbish before and now there is so much.
- Pisses me off, empty alcohol bottles everywhere. It must be the locals.
- Kids today are swimming, sailing, lots of fishing, waka-ama, kayaks, snorkels, food gathering. There is more recreation and more fun. Our childhoods were more about survival.
- We are adaptable, fringe dwellers, reclusive, forgiving, but don't go parking in my drive way and then call me an idiot, or you're in your own bay and someone tells you off! It's just my right to be here, it's my home.
- Wish to be able to 'See the Barrier' to actually see and appreciate the coast. It's about the beauty.

3.14 Devonport/Takapuna

- An Englishman came to live there and was going to set up a school for sailing. I told him it wouldn't work, because everybody learnt to sail and swim then by frequenting the beaches and having a go with other young people. Now you have to join a club and pay your membership.
- The beauty of it was that you could walk to the bottom of the road and have a beach to yourself. You could be in town in a few minutes on the ferry. My kids brought themselves up. The world has altered. We are tangled up with the rest of the world for communications. As the city gets bigger we pay the penalty.
- Instead of having access to the countryside, our kids ran wild over 60ha at Moa Pt. Now you probably can't get there, apart from the regional park, because it is all in private ownership. That has made what open country there is very important. You can go there and do what you like. The regional reserves are wonderful!
- We used to anchor in the bays around the island. We were lucky that some of them didn't have any houses in them. We always thought the foreshore and seabed belonged to all of us. Access to the water is so crucial, whereas in New Zealand the beaches are easy to get to.
- The Gulf is a priceless asset. Talk to anyone who has done any boating around the world. It is world class. It needs to be recognised as world class. Even sailing up around Te Atatu, amongst the mangroves, is a pleasure.

- We don't have a lot of easy access ways to the coast. Even Takapuna Beach has only a few access point to it. We have to be careful we don't lose the access we do have. You see lumps of land being sold off in the local rag.
- There was a lovely walk at Milford – it was a great vision and nothing happened. There are too many committees and layers of local government. (Decisions about) the Takapuna Beach reserve has all been delayed.
- People didn't used to care about getting sand on their feet or getting their feet wet or not having a lovely shop. We took our picnic with us and just went to the beach. People and especially immigrant populations now expect to have a beach without seaweed. They go to Croatia and Italy, where the beaches are groomed, except for the excreta floating in the sea, and it's all built up. People's expectations are higher. They want board walks and to be able to wear their Gucci and flash clothes and not get dirty.
- Beaches are much busier, with apartments and no back yard. All our public spaces and the beaches are under pressure and it is going to get worse. You can still get out and find a beach without anyone on it. You can still do that.
- Our history of boating has been centred on low cost – compared with the US, where it's all about cost. We have easy access to the sea. You can still build your own boat and you don't have to have a warrant. If you sink that's your problem.
- Overseas I asked a guy what the number was on his boat – it's the warrant number. Everyone has to have an annual warrant/WOF check, or they are not allowed in the marina. At this yacht club, most people have moorings out here – it's a cost, but not colossal. You can bring your boat up and clean it yourself. There aren't many (like this) left now. It's easy to get to where you have a very expensive marina and restrictions. This hard stand (outside the club) would be worth millions.
- The people on the beaches are not just the locals now and it is free. They can come and it doesn't cost them anything except the petrol.
- My concern would be about access, from the shore and from a boat. We should be able to come ashore and pull a boat up anywhere.
- Wherever in New Zealand you have a lake or stream, there is a sense of access. I would like to see riparian rights around the coast, without the clause that notes the size, but by law. North Head has to come back to the public for access – a concept of the commons. You can walk along Cheltenham Beach, but it would be really nice to be able to walk around Heads.
- What about Spencer's land (on Waiheke)? Let's turn it into a wonderful park and let's make it an even better opportunity (for the future).
- It's not easy to acquire foreshore reserves under the Queen's chain. A percentage of a subdivision has to be given to the Crown, and that can be given in cash or land. You end up with some money going into the subdivision fund that parks can spend in other areas. There have been lots of arguments, where we should have had a foreshore reserve. The latest example is the loss of access around North Head.
- My simple wish is for my grandchildren to still be able to learn to sail from community facilities and clubs and have access to the water in a way that is inexpensive.
- Used to drive around going 'wow, look at the view!' Now the bush is in the way. Need viewing shafts so we can celebrate the view.

3.15 Kaiaua

3.16 St Mary's Bay

- I remember jumping off the jetty at Okahu Bay and being thrilled exploring secret places. It is much harder to access these places now.
- Physical access is key – it is completely different now.
- People still love to get out to Waiheke, the inner Islands and the Barrier for that authentic/less modified environment – something you can't experience in Auckland CBD anymore.
- The level of accessibility to the coast has changed. Cost is a big prohibitor.
- A half-hour kayak or paddle board is a good way to experience and access the coast – therefore people are now experiencing the coast differently.
- There are different population and cultural dynamics to Auckland's current population make-up i.e. there are large groups of Polynesian and Asian families that enjoy Pt Chev and Wynyard etc. and also fish under the Harbour Bridge.
- The sand has made Point Chev more accessible – people now come from all over Auckland to use these beaches. Large Polynesian groups picnic here. The pontoons here provide a fun destination for people to swim to.
- Boats come in very close here which is frustrating.
- Need to deal with mixed uses of beaches.
- We need to understand how people are using different parts of Auckland and make the sea edge more accessible.
- Driving water's edge – for beauty and ease.
- City needs to solve the east-west issue to promote water's edge issue. Remove people who do not want to go through the city but who clog it up.
- I want to see an active, connected waterfront in the future.
- People are getting priced out of waterfront properties and boating and there is a lack of access.
- Omaha – more population, more connected, is a satellite place so hard for people to get to.
- Tawharanui is excellent – it is great to see the life here since the marine reserve was established. I would love legal pedestrian access to the beach there.
- Sand replenishment of beaches is positive and helps people enjoy the coast.
- Water and accessibility.
- Many children living in south South Auckland have never been to the beach and can't swim – better public accessibility.
- Making the islands accessible/lower cost ferries – very expensive.
- Fullers say it's all about patronage.
- Kids can experience easy access to the coast and the marine environment to see what it is about in Mangawhai.
- Accessibility an issue in Auckland – have to drive/go further out into the Gulf to the Islands by boat to get that old school experience.

3.17 Mercury Bay

- Remember south-easterlies, good summers.
- The day I arrived, the south-easterly blew.
- The newspaper used to get dropped by airplane.
- Lady Jocelyn the cargo boat could get all the way up to Te Kawanga wharf – took away butter and crabs and brought in fuel and supplies. She finished in the 60's and trucking took over.

- Cruisy lifestyle.
- Remember my father fishing with three boys.
- Life was less stressful, less regulations, we knew what was common sense.
- Whitianga town had one cop who drove the ambulance as well.
- We had the pie shop.
- Summer was busy – families would come over from Cambridge for three weeks holidays every year – paradise!
- We saw lots of sawdust from the kauri mills, there were lots of shells on the beach.
- Sand had no step down – the height of the sand comes and goes.
- From the wharf out, we used to be able to drive vehicles. Storms brought the sand right up to the trees overnight.
- Shells were mainly pipi – in some middens there were millions.
- No paddle crabs back then.
- I remember snorkelling for paua and crayfish very early on – in the early 80s it was straight forward to get a feed of crayfish and paua.
- The noises in the summers – a lot of noise from seabirds, ocean teeming with kahawai, crack open a kina and all the fish would come –so much life, so much vibrancy.
- Aquariums in the rock pools – we would make a fish zoo. I remember my feet in the rock pool with all the little shrimps nibbling your feet.
- The scuttling noise from the big crabs, dive-bombing seagulls squawking.
- In 1987 the Mare's Leg at Cathedral Cove broke off in the big storm. It's broken but still there. We've got photos from the boat.
- You could catch john dory from the beach by hand.
- Our cat would catch mackerel from the wharf – a red point Persian thought he was a lion.
- Getting out the piper net first thing in the morning – sprats, all sorts – looking to see what we'd caught.
- Even Devonport was littered with scallop shells in the 1960s.
- We had big white nets and Agee jars for the whitebait.
- The average Kiwi family would come. We all love to experience the coast. It's who we are – the Kiwi way of life.
- Camping lifestyle, family arguments, camping gives all the coasters a coastal experience.
- Coast is a magnet. Everybody loves the coast and being by the sea. Part of it's in you.
- Dad lived at Aotea so us kids had a coastal experience in the holidays.
- Sense of joy being close to the sea.
- Inland people from Matamata and the farms would go to the sea. You could smell it – 'we're nearly there'.
- Those evenings out the west of the Barrier had a smell – manuka flowers, sea air.
- This year there have been very few pohutukawa flowers but a big year the year before.
- At Christmas time the population spikes.
- Back then some areas were not settled at all. The main street was metal. Now lots live here and the result on the water is from humans – on water, on land. The human is breeding with exponential effects.
- Be interesting to come back in 100 years and see our patch. It will never be like it was ever again.
- In 20 or 30 years we will all be older!
- This group is 50-plus. Talk to 10-12 year olds about the way they grow up on the coast – probably the same experience.
- What kids see today is normal to them but there are lots more people.
- When we were little we could catch a fish from the beach – that got harder and we would catch from the dinghy – that got harder, we would use a long line but there used to be

always a special place you could rely on for a catch of kahawai, kingfish, piper. That's not the same today – the surety of that special pozzie has gone.

- A DOC meeting about marine reserves pointed out damage by visitors with sunscreen, urine etc. in the Pahi marine reserve.
- My wish is that more people understand the sea and the environment, that every action has a reaction.
- Our kids see and smell, hear, what we used to.
- We respect the place as a whole and educate people about the whole to enjoy and extract.
- Healthy Gulf – that means people have a sustainable livelihood, use, recreation.

3.18 Maraetai

- The beach was sandy around here.
- I used to milk cows but did a lot of fishing to relax.
- We used to fish at Kawakawa Bay and get cockles – now you'd think twice about even swimming in the bay. The coastal experience was a great experience and a great way to bring the kids up. My little girl used to jump off the boat into the water and had never felt the bottom till school swimming competitions.
- I moved to Kawakawa Bay 15 years ago for my kids. We used to mostly boat about, visiting the inner Islands. We'd come down to Duders and do the cockle thing as it was nice, flat, calm and safe. We live at Bombay but I've been boating for 40 years. We had a boat at Kaiaua.
- My grandfather was a member of the rowing club. My wife's family would passage from the Barrier right up the river to gain building supplies. You couldn't do that now with the water depth.
- The sea was our playground!
- The supply boats only came to the Barrier once every two weeks so we depended on the ocean for food. My parents would tell us kids to go out and get a kai. I have been feeding people for years from the ocean right out front of our house.
- The ocean and coast is a classroom. When we would go on holiday, one of my girls was out swimming and the other used to draw every bird that she saw with names and descriptions of each. When we asked to take the children out of school for a family holiday, the teacher said that my girls would learn more with us at the coast than in the classroom.
- Great camaraderie! We all look after each other out here and always have. It's what is really cool about us boaties out here. There was a mayday call recently and we didn't even think – we jumped into our boats and just went to save the guy. Turns out it was lucky we were there because there was no rescue boat on the island and the guy's face was banged up pretty bad. We put a tarp around his boat and pulled him back to safety in the dark. Three-quarters of the radio traffic is us talking to each other nowadays whereas half of the boaties at the big marinas in the city don't ever know each other.
- Kawakawa Bay Boat Club has gone from 275 members to over 1300. The boat club wouldn't exist if it weren't for its volunteers. We all used to just get stuck in and do what needed to be done – the world has changed now and it is much harder to do things.
- Look at Maraetai on a good day. It is completely packed with people.
- The rahui is a great thing which is allowing the cockle beds to come back but we are just shifting the pressure from one bay to the next.
- There were wall-to-wall people down here [Maraetai] on Boxing Day and when they left there was wall to wall rubbish. And it is getting worse.

- What's really disappointing is the disrespectful type of rubbish left like dirty nappies.
- Council cleaners are doing a good job to clean up but people seem to take the council cleaners for granted and dump their rubbish because it will be cleaned up.
- In other areas, council has taken bins away and tried to educate people to take their own rubbish with them. I never had to be told to pick up rubbish – it was just what you did. I now pick up a black rubbish bag full of rubbish every weekend and other locals comb the beaches with filling up plastic bags full of rubbish.
- Large groups of people seemingly taking over large areas 30-40 people in one spot. These people are most likely just enjoying the environment but sometimes it's intimidating. They could go to regional parks but you have to pay for that and maybe it's an economic thing. The local beach is free.
- There seems to be a change in the population dynamics and cultures seem to aggregate at different spots, e.g. Omana has a lot of Asian visitors whereas Maraetai has more Island communities.
- There is a wide range of craft now between speed boats to stand up paddles. There are a lot of trailer boats and many, many more kayaks.
- It was bloody hard fishing this season. Although the changes seem to be cyclic or seasonal.
- I stay away from Tiri because there are too many tourists and too many ferries.
- I would like people to be more environmentally conscious and thinking about sustainability – caring for others and fair about the way we use the Gulf. We have a long way to go. Education takes place through the clubs, the Councils, all organisations. We would go to the beach and think it a crime to drop paper and so on.
- I'd like my grandchildren to think they can have unrestricted access to the coastline; it is clean and healthy and they enjoy all the things we used to.
- Some people will have no access to vessels so something like Rotoroa is fantastic. Access to any bay on any island and throw your pick down. Free to stay the night, go ashore. Do that!
- Preserve Kiwis' God-given right to enjoy the foreshore and the coast the way it is now.
- In 30 years' time, Orere will be part of the unitary plan. The priority has to be the environment – there's more education and we treat the water the way we look after the land now. Put the litterers out on the islands in jail! Make fines for damage tough and heavy like we do now on the roads.
- Another big thing is educating our new ethnicities – leave some to grow a bit – education about these things. We want people to have a marine experience but without education, people are getting into trouble at sea and rock fishing. Swimming lessons – we assume because we are comfortable in the water. Some things for the future are little people things. Some are environmental.
- For my kids, I'd like to see the Hauraki Gulf a respected, clean and abundant playground.

3.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- I worry that my son won't be able to afford to go boating the way we did – back then every man and his dog built a boat in the 70s and went sailing.
- Clubs have gone away from encouraging like Wakatere. Now they buy rather than build.
- I went sailing at 5am on the boat with my father in my own little sail boat which he and all the other dads made happen. There was guidance from the other guys, everybody brought along a bit of wood and they did it together.
- Half a dozen of us built our own boats and then we would race each other. We were boys together. It was a great life – you started with a canoe – maybe even a corrugated iron one. Down by Otahuhu we used to make canoes then go to a P Class then an 18 footer and on up.
- We'd go all over the Gulf and off up to Russell no problem.

- You had to have a keel for safety.
- We'd go sailing up, having fun, off the wind coming back, calling in at the bays on the way – we knew people it was completely different. Tutuakaka was easy fishing.
- We shot sharks, rabbits, sheep, whatever with a .22 on board – you got to know the farmers and the shopkeepers. You could moor anywhere. Everything was an adventure, full of adventure and it still is today. Going out to the Barrier today is still an adventure. There is a possibility of danger.
- We had the best of it. There were few regulations and restrictions. You could build a bonfire or a BBQ on the beach.
- It used to be very social with 20 or so yachts in any race. You would go into a bay and know everybody and which class their yacht was in a B or C...
- It's different now the way the Gulf is used because we all have freezers and GPS chart plotters and depth sounders. You can see where rocks are, the depth. It feels much safer and the Gulf feels more accessible.
- There are more and more launches and power vessels. They are quicker and don't want to learn about the sea. They don't need to learn to sail. It's like being in a washing machine sometimes.
- There are also more kayaks – they are going fishing and getting crays and they are getting to see and observe more of the sea life quietly and without noise and making very little impact on the coast – they go a long way too.
- They are catching fish, watching the marine life, getting in close and exploring but they could be better lit at night. They are hard to see.
- There are more charter boats now and they are out and about in the evening. They are introducing visitors of all kinds to what we have out here – tourism has a lot to do with the quality of our Gulf.
- Today there are more jet skis in the bays, more rubbish. We take a plastic bag with us and clean it up rubbish that comes from the city not the boats.
- In the past the Hobsonville Yacht Club started a Yachtsman of the Year award and all the clubs came for an event where we told the story of the yachtsman's life on the sea. We need to keep these records and tales of the sea – there's treasure in this stuff.
- The more you tell people adds depth and colour and interest in the community, adds to our identity and it makes for stronger bonds – like the old boy who rowed regularly from Moturekareka to get his gin. Local colour, old characters, history recorded and lived.
- The wish has got to be that you can have a sociable time if you want it, or a quiet 'get-away from it all' time – whatever you need at the time.
- It's a wish that the city dwellers will always be able to get away from it all too, with a walk on Martins Bay or wherever.
- In the bigger cities, boaties go from marina to marina or tie up at the town wharf in the UK and go to the pub. They don't have the opportunities we have here but a trip up to the pub at Riverhead gives you a bit of both experiences. Try and have that – both.
- The Gulf gives you an opportunity to meet all sorts of people, a variety and you can meet up – it's a way of life.
- It's most important that the next generations can enjoy what we enjoyed – walking the beaches, being safe, the freedom, fishing or boating or whatever – a similar experience.
- Users of the Gulf are responsible for it but there is a time and place for regulation. We are responsible for our own safety and that of our families. Keep a universal respect for the Gulf.
- I just want to see more young jokers out there on boats.
- My wish is that the Gulf is as good as it can be, not over-restricted. Keep what's special out there – an experience even if it's yacht racing and beating the other boats. When we

experience nasty weather there is always a great story to share afterwards, and a crew is bound together.

3.20 Hobsonville

- Young families all around Taikata Sailing Club and so on. We used to have really big events and everybody came – boat racing and lots of fun.
- Lots more kayaks now, stand-up paddles, plastic craft, smaller boats all out fishing – there's a problem with safety at night. You can't see them from a boat.
- More education in schools about the coast – looking after the Gulf starts with what we do on the land.
- I want to see the coastlines opened up, protection for the coastline, one authority and a plan that works too – 25 years of action. Clean beaches, clear water, and access for my grandkids.

3.21 Tairua

- Kayaking.
- Swimming.
- Boat launching.
- Shellfish collecting.
- Surfing skiing.
- Most of what you look at is untouched (to look at) on East Coast.
- Sneak into Boat Harbour, feels like you were the one to discover it.
- Ngati Hei looking at Ohinau Island as an option for public access. To explore, experience. Rat control about five years. Giant weta!
- Slipper Island: easy access, own specialness, different, only landing island & Great Mercury.
- Can head from here to the Mercs!
- Having places that aren't easy to get to, accessible but difficult... Part of what makes them special is you have to make an effort to get there.
- Te Karo Bay (Sailors), Otara Bay are special places, tend to be looked after.
- Opposition to marine reserve: was because you couldn't anchor in it. Safe fishing area for locals.
- EMR School Program: as part of it the students need to do an action looking at options. Benefits. Kids' idea! Not teachers (three years on).
- School looking at using Seasketch.
- Coastal Marine Reserves: easy to access (rather than going by boat) for families and kids, appreciate the area, interact with: kids, tourists, environments & economic benefits.
- 'Appreciation Education' – allow to see & experience, builds support.
- Are reserves for marine inhabitants or the human?
- If moorings in area? Or allow anchoring then people can interact with & enjoy... perhaps you will get more support?
- This water is untreated and exits to the sea with every tide. It also impacts on the amenity value of the beaches (TCDC stormwater pipes).
- Use of the estuary is for swimming mainly.
- However 'use' also relates to the aesthetics – simply the pleasure of walking along the beach.
- Want visual values: untouched sea/landscape – east coast – water clarity & quality e.g. coastal villages like Opoutere.

- One of the things that makes Coromandel special is we have intense population around us, so we need special places even more. It becomes particularly important it's accessible, so protection becomes important.
- Different geological features.
- Could go anywhere in the world & not find as stunning coastline.



SECTION 4

4 Infrastructure and Commercial Use

4.1 Ngatea

- Toilet waste from boats – will be more of an issue with more people.
- Yes, need toilets.
- With boat ramps you've got Waikawau and Coromandel, Te Puru is too shallow and you get cross winds at all the others.
- Want more boat access, all weather, all tide, is needed, otherwise I think things are going pretty well.

4.2 Thames

- Pacific oysters at Piako River mouth is a problem for access.
- Drains straightened and are sprayed. Not good for ducks.
- Decline in dolphins in Cook Strait blamed on cleaning drains! A chain reaction. Affecting the ecology. We are killing grass on drains. It worries me.
- What about sea level rise? What will happen with the drainage e.g. Beach Hop event? Where will that be able to be held?
- Need it for the town. Need to clean up the water system.
- Overseas, I saw stormwater outlets with large socks on them to catch plastic bottles, etc.

4.3 Whangamata

- Trucks, bulldozers, earthworks, milling, forestry of pines – many people don't remember that Whangamata was an experimental area where all kinds of pines were planted. The pines that meet the grade were bulldozed straight into the harbour.
- I have a photo from the 1930s that shows the area was largely sand dunes.
- 14,000 years ago following the Ice Age, the sea level rose 130m and pushed the sand ahead of it. It took 5000 years for nature to build the sand dunes and it has been destroyed in my lifetime (75yrs).
- The sand used from the causeway used to be used for concreting. It's now covered over by mud.
- Depth of harbour has shallowed – e.g. Lady Jocelyn draws 9ft water – 3m of water at boat access now shallow.

4.4 Hamilton

- Pain in the arse that Te Kouma and Waikawau Bay boat ramps are managed by two different organisations. It's farcical – access should be a right.
- I'm sick of queuing at boat ramps, so now I get the kayak out to fish.
- The parking is inadequate, launching is OK, but getting back in is worse. There is a line of boats out to sea waiting to come back in.
- Shouldn't have to pay \$10 per time to launch. It's not stifling demand. Should be paid through existing rates and taxes.

4.5 Coromandel

- Have seen lots of boats, way more moored on the Coromandel.
- What hasn't changed is lack of facilities, infrastructure
- Wyuna Bay erosion, there's a half metre drop off at ramps, either end of the concrete ramp.
- Oyster farms tractors driving out to farms on tractors.
- People are living on boats. What are the regulations around this on moorings in bays?
- Shelly Beach – all over access with tractors no 'one' access. Impacts on coastal erosion.
- Koputauaki Bay graveyard, what are they allowed to do here? There's erosion, the rock wall is falling apart.
- Want moorings in designated areas, there needs to be a process.

4.6 Kaipatiki

- It's a bone of contention now that the (ferry) boat doesn't go Islington Bay any more. We have asked for the ferry service to be returned. Then the road (to Islington Bay) won't need so much work.
- In the past there were a series of jetties and access points.
- The dying communities are noticeable. Now there is a range of very small communities. The impact of tourism (where the ferries go to and what is economic for them) has reduced the options (for people) and changes the places that people go to now.
- Boaties have trouble landing on Rangī. First we went to aluminium boats and now we're into inflatable boats. And, of course, they get punctured on the rock and that has changed the (ease of) access.
- It's expensive to get out there (by ferry). It's \$160 for the family for the day.
- Recently I had to walk from Rangī wharf to Islington Bay. There was no alternative. My family from Buckland's Beach came over in their boat and took me back to meet the ferry. And then (because we missed the ferry) they took me back to Devonport. Other people wouldn't be able to do that.
- Most people go to Islington Bay by water taxi, but the cost is twice the price (of the ferry).
- If the trend continues, many people won't be able to get to Islington Bay. Just think what Aucklanders will be missing.
- (The Gulf) is an asset that only a few people are making money from and it could be enjoyed by hundreds.
- We went to Spain and there were all these marinas. They (have nowhere else to) go, just out to sea. It made me appreciate our area, where you can go to Islington on Friday night and then you go off (around the Gulf), depending how the weather is. (Hopefully) the cost of small boats is going to come down with technology.
- Our bach has got a long drop. There's no running water. Not many people would want to go there now. But I love it!
- There's a variety of places to live or visit in the Gulf: Waiheke is quite up-market; Islington Bay is not. Kawau is a quite a mix.
- I have suggested reinstating the tidal flow (between Rangitoto and Motutapu), by building a bridge with a bigger span and support for the road, making sure the water still goes through.
- It's a short trip to Kawau, but a big trip to Great Barrier. I've been to Kawau and across to Coromandel. But I can't take the waves and swells. We had to be able to get home.
- It is possible that Fullers will put a bus on to Home Bay from Rangitoto wharf. That doesn't seem a good fit with how people use those tracks on Motutapu. Travelling on the Gulf is the way to go.

4.7 Waiheke Island

- The Wharf in Anzac Bay and the Rocky Bay store was where the fishermen got their provisions.
- Places were not so compartmentalised. More people generally across the island.
- With only two ferries a day you had to live here and we were dependent on fishermen, the shopkeepers etc.
- Arrived in 1951 and seen big changes in the traffic, infrastructure, everything is carrying an extra load – the roads and sewage systems were not built for this, so expenditure on these will be an issue.
- Most roads were metal and covered over to stop the dust. There has been a dramatic increase in traffic.
- There were 26 farms, now there are five that people get income from. There were two primary schools. The first high school started in a store. We generated our own power and had party line phones with the winder and in some areas no phone. Some people had jobs in the six telephone exchanges.
- 60-80 people commuted back then and a lot of people lived away for the working week and then the population increased at the weekends.
- Jobs on the island were trades and building, roads board, hardware – the only retail was grocery.
- Manganese was mined.
- The 1980s – beginning of the building boom really. We thought it was just a phase, maybe five years, but it hasn't gone away. Subdivisions opened up the building.
- Local businesses complain that the gold card visitors bring packed lunches with them and therefore Fullers are the ones making the money.
- Whitakers Musical Museum brings in gold card holders to show mid-week.
- There are more people coming from Auckland on the ferry to the island to fish, and not contributing to the local environment.
- Kayak renting at Matiatia and Oneroa for visitors.
- The speed of the trip has made a difference. A coffee and read the paper and you are here. It is not the same sea travel experience as it used to be. Some appreciate the fresh air and view of the sea.
- Ferries used to be full of blue collar workers; they knew each other, played cards, but now its people with computers. Huge social change.
- There are more holiday homes as older residents die, the younger ones use as a holiday home. Commute has become expensive.
- Lost smaller general store in Oneroa, Placemakers where people go now.
- Lots of great memories about the grandkids growing up here. There are less people at church.
- I'm a beekeeper and I used to have one solid harvest of pohutukawa honey around February-March and that was 50% of the honey harvest. But now after the last four to five years I am getting a solid crop mid spring – two seasons because of the bush and the planting people are doing around their houses.
- Water – the supply of water – in 30 years with changing weather patterns, how will the island water table survive the number of people and the crops? In 1986 it was desperately dry that summer and we used the high school water supply. But we pumped the aquifer dry.
- Common usage for areas that have always been there, e.g. moorings at Anzac Bay – keep what we have now. Keep it the way it is, like 'the commons'.
- The 1920's subdivision at Onetangi Road didn't think about an esplanade. There is encroachment of reserve land. The tops of Matiatia could be lost.

- Character of the island and the reason we are all here. Needs to be a balance between future growth and our community, those things we find special – peace and quiet, not many people, walking the dog on the beach. Our freedom to enjoy what we have here.
- A balance between progress and containing progress.
- Not [Council] rated off the island.
- Be sympathetic to boaties and holiday makers, who spend here. But at the same time, control volumes of people and their behaviour. Not overloading of resources on the island.
- A good marina on the island for boaties.
- Have a designated area for people to live on their boats (houseboat types).
- There is room for everybody.
- I think my kids would struggle to afford a home here in 30 years. I'd like for them to find a place that they can have what we have here – the lifestyle, ability to work and spend time with family / kids.
- People need somewhere to tie up their boat, access to beaches.
- There will be pressure on agriculture, other than livestock, some residential, so maybe another port.
- How sustainable is the water-table? If you haven't got water out of the sky it's got to be underground. Waiheke has two water-tables.
- I'd like to see olives and vineyards and these productive uses really thriving, labour intensive, provide local jobs so people can stay on the island.
- Tourism will grow. Eco-tourism big future in that but needs to be controlled.
- We live in a beautiful place – we need to keep ahead of the game, see the negatives and manage as best we can.
- I want this to stay a place where families can have some fun. In winter it can be a difficult place. There's not much and it gets sticky underfoot and it's windy and cold – that's why we are pushing for a swimming pool especially for the winter – visitors can come too.
- Welcome visitors, yes, and they should not come and upset the ecology.
- Welcome all the people and not put brakes on innovative ideas that can make a living here. We don't have to have rules about everything without some foresight – be progressive. Look at Taupo and the way they attract people – think fresh out of the box.
- I wish for the gold card to be retained for a while yet. It allows a good cross section of people and visitors here. There were a lot of older people here and the tradespeople used to look after them. Work was organised over a drink at the Onetangi pub.
- Also the gold card visitors keep the place ticking over, even the \$2 shop looking for a little trinket for their grandkids.
- We need to manage development. Auckland is going ballistic, bursting at the seams. We are so close to the central city and more people will want to come here.
- What's happening to the coastal strips when land was subdivided? People are getting away without providing these. We need to fix that.

4.8 Upper Waihou

- Extended the port a lot in the last while.
- Looking at doing more reclamation now. For the traffic.
- Years ago there used to be baches for the summer, now there's two supermarkets up here. Two supermarkets! Who needs two supermarkets?
- People are just making their living there now, all sorts of tourist things now.
- With the technology now, people can work businesses from everywhere.

- Because of the terrain, it's an at-risk place – it's wild isn't it. The recent storms have caused lot of problems. People have moved there, they pay the cost of living there. The rates are sky high.
- I'd like to stop urban sprawl.
- At the moment you're losing all this productive land. You talk about intensified farming – this is intensified living. All this septic has to go somewhere.
- The lifestyle blocks didn't help, did they? It took that land out of productive. 55000 hectares you're losing every year of productive land and that number was from 5 years ago.
- Some of them get their five acres.

4.9 Milford to Long Bay

4.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- Maybe instead of everybody owning a boat and gear and needing more and more ramps we should be looking at more charters etc.
- I used to own a trailer boat and now I've got a launch – moorings have proliferated and many of them are unoccupied but they close off an area. Other boaties don't get to moor because of the permanent moorings such as Woody Bay or Rakino School House Bay.
- Opposition to Matiatia marine but if the moorings were removed and replaced with marina berths, marinas would probably accommodate more boats.
- I'm on the Thames Coromandel economic unit and three of us are bringing economic ideas on policy, looking ahead, including considering making the whole of the Coromandel a protected area, which will make a difference for people who live there and raise their families there – also for tourism and retirement. The communities now are quite knowledgeable about how to attract fewer people, but ones with deep pockets. They are much more green, too.
- Yachting on the HG, most kiwis made their own boat, but the ability to sail somewhere and have a spot to put down and have a safe anchorage, we've lost some options. I'm not against aquaculture, but we need to look at these two things together.
- I would like some wild coastal areas, not like the pile of rocks piled up (outside the club house). We need to preserve what we can and the hinterland in its natural state. We don't want it all sanitised!
- Those rocks are there because they blew up the estuary (to reduce flooding here) and had to protect the area where the river used to come out.
- We have a Long Bay project, with soft landscaping (around the water treatment area). It looks really neat as you come down to the entrance. The developer had to work in with quite staunch consents for view lines and we are going to have access to those two beaches. Maybe the views will change. The issue is it's a greenbelt now for the Hibiscus Coast – to develop that (surrounding) land is one of the most economic (options) because it's close to jobs.

4.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- I've been involved in the area since the 60's and see things newcomers would not see. I want to help preserve the bay, to raise awareness of the issues.
- Change from no subdivision to more and more.

- I was just this big to start with and we used to play under the pohutukawa all the time and then they put a sea wall in, which I couldn't understand, and then it disappeared, got nobbled. Under the pohutukawa we had a 'Wendy' house and posies.
- Coastal erosion is a problem. Parts are being eroded away very quickly. At the end of Scott's Landing I was in a yacht and there were lumps of rocks coming down last weekend.
- At the moment the sea has taken the land back again.
- Some of the little boats now are just like gnats on speed. The city folk just go for it, they don't observe. At speed that contributes to erosion and we notice, because our pace is slow. The number of boats that go up to Warkworth is a fraction of what it used to be: 50 launches all heading up to do their shopping at Warkworth. Dawson's Landing is hardly navigable. The Mahurangi Action Plan: the bigger boats with the bigger propellers stir up the mud. Over a period of time (the plan) will help it get out of the system. They are hoping to dredge and the dredgings will go on the vacant land adjacent to the oxidation ponds and we will end up with a channel going up to the Dawson River. I went on a boat trip the other day and they explained how the roots of the mangroves build the river up and then it suddenly collapses and flows on down a short way.
- Coastal erosion is increasing. I heard rocks coming down at Casnell Island when I was boating.
- Sea has taken land back at southern end of the beach here.
- Now there are more jetskis – city people like to go fast.
- More boats up river creating wake – increases erosion.
- Number of boats going up river to Warkworth has decreased – used to be 50 boats going up to do their shopping. There is more sediment in the river which makes it less wide and shallower. I thought it is because there are fewer boats. The big propellers would move the sediment.
- We need to dredge the river and the dredged land could go on vacant land near Dawson Road – bring back the boats.
- I wish for local communities to be slightly more tolerant of small industry. The local Sandspit community has been reluctant to put a commercial part to the wharf. It would service Kawau. It didn't feel like they were forward thinking. I'm about to start a little tour operation.
- Commercialisation of the Sandspit wharf: I wonder if the powers that be that uphold that realise that is restricting the development on Kawau Bay. The fares are now astronomical – they used to be reasonable. It costs an arm and a leg to go over there to see the Mansion House. In 30 years I want people to still be able to go over and see Governor Grey's house. We have so much land set aside for regional parks now. We should have the equivalent land set aside for the public to use in the same proportion to what it is now, as the population grows.
- Wish for local communities to be slightly more tolerant of small industry.
- I lived in Sandspit – it was very hard to convince locals to put a commercial port on the wharf.
- I wonder if the powers that be who say that there is to be no commercial development want to restrict density on Kawau.
- Now it's really expensive and we are losing history and tourism of Gulf.
- Concerns of dredging proposals that are imminent at Sandspit estuary and Mahurangi – cost us a lot of \$\$ now and cost a lot for the environment later.
- Rivers wouldn't silt up by itself – it would have happened years ago.
- Watch population impacts and this comes down to zoning in UP.
- Creating vast areas of hard surfaces along the coast.
- People have to put in rainwater tanks – infrastructure.

- Lack of appreciation of how serious the sea level rise is going to be – particularly the public piece.
- I have serious concerns as to the dredging proposals that are imminent in the Sandspit estuary and the Mahurangi River. The reason is because it is going to cost a lot. I'm concerned that we subdivide and create hard surfaces that will change the ecology in the rivers and the harbours. I would like to see people have to put in grey water tanks and planting, so that it is all buffered, providing better water quality.
- My concern is the current lack of appreciation about how serious the sea level rise is going to be, particularly at the second half of this century – unfortunately most of the affected land will be the public piece of land between the existing beach and people's property. I don't think there are enough people taking this seriously enough. Unless there is some proactive work now it will affect my children. If I was an entrepreneur I would invest in quarries.
- Of money now and it may have environmental effects that will cost us money later. . .

4.12 Kawau Island

- All of our jetties were made out of tea tree and have been there for over 50 years – they are made to last and withstand ferry nudges... The new design specs and ridiculous. We have to use treated wood and construct the jetties so a car can go on them! Where is the car going to go once it arrives? How is it even going to arrive on to the jetty!?
- One of the things that changed the most is the transport system. We used to have slow wet rides but they were great – you'd really get to know each other! With the advent of better, faster ferries you have totally different people because they can get here faster – before you were in it for the long haul!
- I used to drive my quad bike to Mansion House to vacuum, put flowers in and get rid of dust. Tourists were always bowled over by the place – they came from all around the world and would come back again and again. It was not much to do with conservation. It was more to do with the spirit of the house.
- We are totally unique and we need to be careful not to improve things so much that we lose our uniqueness.
- 30 years ago no one worried about others walking across their property. But when the walking track proposal went through, now people put up "no trespassing" signs on their property.
- 30 years ago the island was recovering from farming. In the 50- 70's the island was all grass.
- Ferry access has got poorer and dearer.
- There is not enough to attract people to enjoy Kawau in the winter especially but I reckon that with great food and a really good cafe on the grounds of Mansion House we could encourage people to come, to mix with each other and local people, enjoy themselves and come again.
- We do have repeat visitors – a number from overseas who come back because there is something extraordinary here.
- We used to have Mystery Night at Mansion House but that's not happening now.
- DOC runs Mansion House but they are not experts in running heritage houses so we would like to see this changed – more like Wenderholm.
- We may be about to lose the Yacht Club and this is a shame for people away on a long holiday – needing someplace to stop and do laundry, fuel up, have a drink and a meal. This is a real loss.
- I think this place is magic and other people see that. We've hosted over 1,000 people over the years at our B and B and nobody leaves here without having a great time and wanting to

come back Mansion House. It is still magic. We'd like to be consulted and involved more in planting and upgrades and so on. It's a focal point for here.

- I'd like to see a new way of managing Mansion House and the Island, maybe the Gulf? Which is working much more WITH local residents.
- Leave it the same, here.
- People who buy in now are different from the original people and they want a hideaway from Auckland and the Auckland way of life but there is a cycle – of about seven years and when the kids become teenagers they leave (so do school aged kids) but I'm noticing that where land is owned in family trusts for instance the generations come back after a time – the properties that are handed down generation by generation – a new generation starts coming.
- The Ferry is so expensive and there is no allowance for gold card members. The average person pays \$25 per way for the shortest ferry ride in NZ. We need a strong tourist attraction to get people to Mansion House to drive the ferry costs down.
- I'd like a rainy Sunday afternoon at Mansion House to be a good experience for people
- I would wish for the Yacht Club to get a new lease of life and continue in some other shape or form – reinvented?
- Scones and lemon cake and a lot more people crossing over at Mansion House.
- I hope Mum's garden does a lot better – fantastic soil, fruit and nut trees, a lovely garden. I'd like to hear the kiwis at night from anywhere on the island.
- We are not Auckland. We need to be seen specially – especially not footpaths and streetlights.
- In 30 years I'll be 60-something and I want to be able to live here, having neighbours who are as diverse as the people here now – people can be who they want to be on their own spot – the diversity of opinions, desires and beliefs works to strengthen our own place.
- We could get to 70 or 80 houses, say, over the next 20 years but no roads – we will find some good way of connecting the residents, retaining what we have.

4.13 Great Barrier Island

- 20 years ago it was bloody awesome. There were more people, no tar seal, crank handle party line. The internet is so slow here we should go back to this system! Pat Cooper would forget that you were on the line. The population were younger, over 100 kids at Mulberry Grove School (now only 12) and 75 Kids at Kaitoke School, but suddenly people left. Mid 1990's land values went up and locals couldn't stay. Construction boom here. All Aucklanders.
- We had two fast boats that came here every Saturday. The people would then do a bus trip around the Island, they would spew on the boats, then spew on the bus, then they went home, so no money was spent here, no money stayed here. People didn't really get to experience the Island.
- A section sold in 1975 for \$3000 (beach front) – to over a million three years ago. The jump was really quick. There was one on Sandhill that was \$20-30k then sold for \$40 then six months later \$500,000, then the same place for over a million. The locals sold up on Sandhill Road for the capital gain and went further inland, maybe only two locals left how now.
- We have seen small changes to the estuary system at Whangapoua. There were big dunes at Whangapoua and maybe 15 years ago a little island clump of dunes just went. Whether it was sea level rise I don't know. It wasn't just sand. It had a clay base.

- Inside the estuary it all moves around. Pat said it used to be ti- tree scrub and the muddy bottom. Now it is sandy and the dunes are retreating. Storm surges and sea level rise make it more like an ocean beach. It will eat away at the airport soon.
- I do barge transport, freight, move stock to Thames, the further out and north I go, there are lots of nice places.
- Huge amount of money being spent on the Island and jobs created, its positive! Money spent on walking tracks, weed control, environmental work. Young people coming back in holidays to do the work (locals).
- The farm I am on now had five families. It's marginal for one family now, so all the facilities go slowly back, and the Island suffers. We had a boom and now we are slowly going back. In 1987 dole, more people came to the Barrier.
- We need a certain number on the Island. The school role was 8, now it's 40 – 2.5 teachers at Okiwi.
- Barges come back only every three weeks – the fuel is the most expensive in the world. We've got a new airfield but the planes don't fly in (Okiwi).
- Tourism is okay in some aspects. It pays for jobs, traps, bridges being updated. There's the great New Zealand runway, lots of Japanese on the wrong side of the road, visitors and foreign bodies. It's an alien invasion.
- There are no roads, so people have to go home by water. City stuff doesn't fit here.
- Moorings are owned by outsiders, when local people can't get a mooring. I rely on a boat coz there's no road access.
- The pressure is coming from Auckland, to the Barrier and giving nothing back to the local community or to the fisheries.

4.14 Devonport/Takapuna

- We've just been out to Great Barrier and if you were a yachtie it would drive you mad. The freighters are getting bigger. This port is supposed to be still under discussion and there's gravel all heaped up there. The cruise liners are a big thing – there are so many of them now. Over the years I've seen a huge range of small craft, and boats that you have never seen before. I think there are a lot more craft on the Gulf and a lot more tourism activities. The ferries are busy, probably like they used to be before the bridge was built.
- All those wharves that used to be part of the ferry runs were public. A lot of wharves were also private, built by people who wanted to bring logs out. The key issue is you should be able to come ashore anywhere. That's a fundamental right from our culture. And it actually (potentially) saves your life.
- At Cheltenham Beach you still find little pellets in the sand from the ships' ballast. There are also a whole lot of organisms that come in from those ships. We need to make sure people comply with biosecurity.
- My real concern is the 30 year plan. Go back 30 years and what is now is nothing we ever expected. For example, we didn't have any cell phones. There were more wharves. The ferries are faster. The Motuihe wharf was removed. Why? That was paid for by the Devonport ferries on quite low fares because the ferries made all their money going on picnics to Motuihe. I like the Polynesian concept, of looking back into the future. Sustainability is about learning from the past. Where are the landings going to be for people with jet packs? You can establish principles, but they come from past experience.
- I walk to work along the waterfront. I am noticing the king tide lapping under the wharf and it didn't happen 30 years ago. There are changes that are environmental too that to some extent are predictable.

- I would like to have a tsunami plan. That would mean that no one in their right mind would buy a bach too close to the sea.
- I would hate to see the Gulf deteriorate by reclamation.
- I'm concerned that there will be 'a Rena' in Auckland – someone will run aground. I wish for no Rena.
- My simple wish is for my grandchildren to still be able to learn to sail from community facilities and clubs and have access to the water in a way that is inexpensive.

4.15 Kaiaua

- King tides of a few weeks ago – have we seen tides this high over the last 40 years? Are we getting higher tides? Is the sea level rise a real issue?

4.16 St Mary's Bay

- There has been a dynamics shift from families owning boats to young execs now and they all want to get on the water quickly, for it to be easy and to get to their destination quickly.
- It is harder to access the coastline now.
- There is an increase in the want for pontoons for easy access.
- 30 – 40% of moorings are not being used – these seem to be people who are not ready to give up their moorings or birth.
- Gulf Harbour offer easier access to the Gulf rather than having to go into town and fight traffic then load the boat at Westhaven and sail through boat traffic and a long passage to get to the Islands and outer Gulf.
- Need to bring new blood into marinas or they will die a slow death
 - Bring in the kids
 - Pontoons for ease of access
 - Actively support small craft – waka, SUPs
 - Change access for larger craft away from kids' access.
- Change 80km vs 50km traffic lanes entering bridge area are a symptom of bureaucracy in management systems. This illustrates things that are not working.
- Ramp rage – pressure on ramps at Omaha
 - Are there enough boat ramps to meet demand?
 - Parking is one of the biggest problems.
- How do you change people's perception of what we have here?
- Ferry traffic would increase use/appreciation.
- We have a blue highway that no one uses.
- Massive change in waterfront precincts is very positive – people are coming from all over Auckland to enjoy the waterfront.
- Would like to see better shared use of coastline (walking/cycling/vehicles).
- Better planning and infrastructure.
- Coastal dredging is destructive.

4.17 Mercury Bay

- We got big storms – Granddaddy storms all along the front – there were sandbags.
- The July storms were regular 100 knots three days on end. Every year we had water down Albert Street.

- Kelp came right up in the storms every year.
- Mercury Bay would be closed in with white water. Depth sounds are the same now – same as the old Admiralty charts.
- Every 15 years the bar would break – records are sitting with Gary but these patterns are cyclical.
- We are only here for a short time so we don't see the pattern – not 100, 200, 500 years.
- Forest of ecklonia sea sponges, anemones you could see diving – after the big dredge for the Auckland wharves everything disappeared except the kina for many years – say 12? Barren. Look out now for ecklonia - we became a dumping ground for dredging and lots of the worst dredgings - munitions, chemicals.
- No dumping.
- Herb and the Mansion House. DVD about climate change – we were all the same age, we are seeing the changes in our own life time, we've experienced the changes.
- As we get closer to the cities and built up areas the coastline is deteriorating – inviting people to visit has an influx but also it may mean people take care.
- King Tides – different views – some never seen it that big before – depends on the moon and the angle of the earth. Seen it bigger at Hahei when we were kids.
- Sand diminishes and returns.

4.18 Maraetai

- The river used to be wide and deep but the dams have changed all that.
- There were hardly any people. Only 30- 40 bachs and about 20 permanent residents.
- Te Kouma was not developed back then. Now there are many more houses.
- Kawakawa Bay – the fishing ramps have exploded with people.
- There is a lot more traffic and people everywhere now. Beforehand people did not travel as far. They would always return to their favourite close bay for a day trip. Now the craft are bigger with more technology and people get as far from the city as they can to relax. Also far more people come to the beaches and so much traffic in the sea.
- We need more facilities for the growing number of people at the parks. There are four new parks in the area – Tawhitokino, Tapapakanga, Omana, Waitawa (just opened), Duder (the oldest of the regional parks).
- We need to release the pressure on the local parks by linking the regional parks better.
- There is only a limited/finite length of coast. The coast ain't getting any bigger and there is continued population growth.
- 30 years ago you kept the rubbish that you found on the beach because you could get money for recycling it and there wasn't that much rubbish anyway. Now there are all types and more and more rubbish.
- There has been a big change in the population dynamics of people visiting the coast with Council changed policies around freedom campers.
 - Some large families come and camp and enjoy the coast and clean up after them but there is no sanitation facility which is worrying.
 - Also other ethnicities do not understand the rules and come from cultures far different to ours, who are used to taking everything they can from the ocean.
 - Central government entices immigration without providing education to different cultures on environmental awareness and the Kiwi way of live.
 - Central and local government needs to create policies for this – to respect the environment.
- Kawakawa Bay is statistically probably the most used boat ramp in the country.

- Per capita it may not have changed but the population has increased drastically and so has the number of boats.
- The new kayak trail has significantly increased the number of families and groups kayaking, resting at beaches, fishing. Kayakers are generally very respectful of the environment. I've never seen kayaker throw rubbish over the side. But they don't have holding tanks!
- There are many more vessels everywhere.
- Pressure for a coastal experience will not taper off. We will have to have more facilities – buy more islands like Rotoroa, made more available.
- I would like to see more transparency in what's going on like the Ports of Auckland reclamation. We feel like us and Yachting NZ are always fighting to keep something like moorings.

4.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- Today we don't have the backyards to repair and build and the next generation is not actually interested.
- The cost of berths and marinas was affordable back then.
- It's time to start again with the stores we used to have to support a day's outing – an ice cream. There were stores at Connells and Islington Bay. We just need a little shop. Squadron is re-thinking closing the clubhouse at Bon Accord Harbour – there was a big meeting about it.
- Need facilities although many craft are so big now they take on diesel to last for a couple of weeks without refuelling. You can refuel now at Matiatia, Coromandel, Leigh, Fitzroy, maybe Sandpit when the new marina comes, and Tutukaka. Mostly we plan ahead and take another can.
- Fuel, fresh water and rubbish disposal are problems on the Gulf. There used to be a floating rubbish barge system.
- Tryphena has got very commercial but they have to make a living out there.
- I think what's happened at Rotoroa is marvellous. Man of War (Bay) also there are so many things to see and do it.
- It's great there are BBQs – gas ones. It's about getting that balance between attracting people and a conservation area that doesn't exclude people – balancing a welcome and conserving.
- At Motuihe DOC is not very welcoming and the balance here has been lost, especially considering it is one of the main gulf islands for recreation there is so much history there – we should be building on that heritage to attract and inform our visitors.
- There is a storyboard outside the club here and it adds colour about this place in the early days – we need more of this in more places – the kauri felling, the fresh water sources for sailing ships, the original tribes – this is all part of the Gulf experience. Motuihe had a good storyboard and it's disappeared. It had military history and the quarantine – now the sign is parked out the back somewhere.
- Keep the clubs going, invest in their facilities, more canoes etc.
- Concentrate the moorings more efficiently in marinas – in the right places and with the right services.
- I would like Aucklanders to be more aware of the value of the Gulf and our marine industry. The America's Cup didn't come here by accident but by the Gulf and the innovation in the boating industry and that spreads into other industries. It brings a lot of money in.

4.20 Hobsonville

- We could moor anywhere. There were fewer rules.
- The Upper Harbour was dirty – Paremoremo and the Air Base pumped their waste into the creek bed. Local people have cleaned it up.
- Development in the coastal areas used to be small. Who is monitoring these bigger developments now, which are 2500-3000 houses. Who is protecting the coast?
- Council reserves are well managed with stormwater and facilities but the same is not true of the Council owned strip on the edge – the 20 meters – there is little investment.
- These should be treated the same as parks.

4.21 Tairua

- Large ships used to come up the harbour.
- You can go to the islands, enjoy them but not go on them.
- Dune restoration has helped with erosion and the provision of walkways means the majority of people don't walk over the dunes to the ocean beach, but use the paths.
- I think there is more awareness now of the need to prevent rubbish washing into the sea, and to pick up what is lying around.
- Safety – another Rena?

An underwater photograph featuring a large crab with orange and white speckled legs and a greenish-brown carapace. The crab is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with its legs spread out. In the upper left corner, a small fish with a pinkish body and a yellow stripe is visible. The background is dark, and the foreground shows some green algae or coral. A white rectangular box with rounded corners is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "SECTION 5" in blue capital letters.

SECTION 5

5 Biodiversity and Biosecurity

5.1 Ngatea

- Cultural training – we need to educate new immigrants on fishing rules, the ecology of New Zealand, effect of taking smaller fish. Can't expect them to know without being told.
- There are seals at Kaiaua. I've seen two seals up in the Waihou.
- See orcas in the Firth of Thames.
- See dolphins all the time.
- If in certain areas then marine reserves could be a good thing – help to spread the fish out.
- Marine reserves have got to be somewhere tourists can get to – need parking, accommodation, decent access, things like that.

5.2 Thames

- Kina barrens. Could get funding to create reserves.
- They take mussels, snails off the rocks. That's a cultural thing. The pressure of people is the problem.
- On Barrier, they are now saying that a marine reserve may not be such a bad thing.
- Not going to stop one million people extra. Things could get worse.
- No ecosystem is improving. Things may be getting better than the past, but other things are now causing pressure.
- Mangroves in the Firth – weren't many originally. Frost used to kill them. Now warmer and they aren't being killed off. Manage them, don't eliminate them. Mangroves are expanding. They were dying in late 60's, but not now.
- In past the sky was thick with ducks and gannets. Not now. There is shags, gannets, ducks – are they living on weed etc.? But now there are crabs and snails in stomach of ducks.
- (Ducks) Used to be able to shoot 100. Now get to shoot 10 if lucky.
- Duck breeding in drains. But not enough water in drains for them to breed. Not breeding so much now.
- Shooting on plains all my life. Shooting is good.
- Want to drive up the coast and see pohutukawa trees to the sea and the road winds through it.
- Put in place marine reserves.
- Pulled down a house and under it were large cockle shells. Can't do that today.
- Food web. Are all interrelated. Walks etc. need to treat everything with respect. Worried about interrupting food web in too many places.
- Protect food.
- See lots of shags. (comment: shags eat a lot of ducklings).

5.3 Whangamata

- There were no mangroves.
- I have an aerial photograph (taken in Jan '53) that shows no visible mangroves in the harbour.
- Little shrimp have been affected, sea grass has been affected, therefore the fish are affected.
- Sea grass is terribly important.

- I can remember as a youngster, when the tide was out we would find huge holes in the sand made by snapper, and lots of pipi.
- Black swans eat sea grass – sea grass used to be everywhere and we’ve probably lost 1/3 of sea grass. Is it covered by silt or mangroves? (Behind Sharon Place)
- I see good mullet numbers above the causeway.
- How much sea grass will survive the silt?
- Patiki Bay was cleared (of mangroves?) 10 years ago – we worked in a foot of silt then, and it has gone back to sand now. There was no sea grass.
- Want NO more mangroves.
- Plant natives NOT pines.

5.4 Hamilton

- More seals, use to see none, now see them occasionally.
- Last 50 years, colossal changes especially habitats.
- Invasive marine species increasing to a point where they are now noticeable. Every time I look at a wharf structure I see different growth on them.
- See less wild mussels now.
- It’s about managing habitat.

5.5 Coromandel

- Mangrove encroachment.
- Swans impacting on native fish stocks at Te Kouma.
- Mangrove encroachment, eel grass has gone.
- Wetlands – Long Bay causeway, there was a community consultation about what is needed.
- Would like to see Matakaitai become a marine reserve, control what they can take, give education.
- Want a Coromandel mangrove removal plan.

5.6 Kaipatiki

- Tiri I just love! We both help out on Motutapu, where the birds are. Restored ecology is attracting people.
- I think marine reserve have made a difference. I’d like some more (marine) reserves. I think they breed the fish and you are going to get the range of mussels that bring the smaller fish and they bring the bigger fish – you create the whole eco system.
- I went down to Waiheke and there are reserves from Orapiu and around the Three Sisters. There are huge reserves there. I just wondered if they are in the right place (for breeding fish).
- I’d like to see healthy habitats above and below the high water mark. You can’t have one without the other. You often hear people comment about a healthy environment above, but you need to encourage the bird life, the penguins and the fish. They are introducing the Shore Plovers at Islington Bay. I don’t remember them, but they released a lot of birds there last year. I think only three survived. There isn’t the fish life to sustain them, as far as I’m concerned. And that will be the same for us humans as well.
- I haven’t seen much of the Gulf. I went to Waiheke years ago. I’m for pulling mangroves.

- This new generation is taking on what you guys used to live by when you were young and fit and healthy. Our younger generation are going to be the champions of the environment! I was listening to them tonight, year 10, 16 and 18 year olds. They are really going to turn the tide.
- Someone told me that all the crabs are going. You don't see them now. I can remember the crabs during my holidays. Without the crabs there's nothing for the flounder to crunch up. What's happened to them? You don't see children looking (for little creatures) in rock pools either. Where have the crabs gone to? Are the pools all silted up?

5.7 Waiheke Island

- The whole of Onetangi was filled with hundreds of thousands of birds and snapper.
- When we were out fishing off Onetangi we would see just clouds of birds – big flocks of pretty much all kinds, maybe not the albatross but everything else.
- You had the birds then the kahawai and under them the snapper and under them again the kingfish.
- People say that up at Leigh marine reserve which is amazing, people are feeding the fish there so much that the fish behaviour is changing but it is a great reserve. There are too many spectators, that's all.
- I dive a lot – at the bottom end of Waiheke it is dead, dead around the rocks
- The sea grass in Surfdale has gone – is that because of trace elements?
- It's (reduced fish catch) reflected in the sea birds. We see petrels, and there's still plenty of gannets but you don't see the terns sitting on the beach like there used to be, the black back or the red ones.
- The other day I saw a flock of birds on the sand facing into the wind. I think they were just resting but it's pretty rare. Is it because of the population moving along the beach?
- We tallied the birds around home the other day and there were 36 species – we're in the Awaroa Valley.
- Always had green element here. Lots of replanting. The whole area is coming back from farming and grass burn off with either grapes or second growth tea tree being the main cover these days.
- Even the wood pigeons are changing their diet from puriri. They are taking to the feijoa and guavas, plums and apricots now.
- It's different the way people build now. People are having to plant. Back in the 80s it was bulldoze everything and all good. Now people are spending as much on their landscaping as they are on their houses so the bigger wealthier houses are having a positive effect on the ecology – the birds, the honey. With the dry summers and poor soil, the land is not good for farming unless you spend on fertilizer. The easiest way for people to maintain these lifestyle blocks is planting.
- Want catchments replanted.
- A biodiverse island. An environmental island.

5.8 Upper Waihou

- They've changed the estuary now. There are thousands of birds sitting down there on the ground. Masses of birds. Wonderful to see so many birds in one place.
- That's what it came down to, sustainability.

- I'd just like to see heaps and heaps of planting, the riparian idea, thicker and bigger in places. I get the idea it's a bit piece meal now. A lot more riparian, along the creeks, a lot more forest and birds feeding off it.
- Every Wednesday they're out.
- A lot of our native plants are used to that thing, they're evolved.
- More birds, better connection.
- A lot of plantings. That's good, that's good. I suppose it's not visible from the road when you're just driving around. You can't see it from the road.
- Local council is reluctant to get involved in it. It's very frustrating.
- I'd like to see it right through, regional council, local council, all working together. Landcare would love that. Rotary/Lions would love that.
- In the Piako Post today, planting in the Waipa River, they have dozens come along and help.
- A greater sense of ownership. Absolutely, absolutely.
- These beach care groups that are really good because people are becoming responsible. A sense of ownership then they get more involved.
- Pods of orcas in the Hauraki Gulf every year, chasing fish along the river.
- We've seen dolphins beaching at Newchums (Beach).
- Let's piss the fishers off and cut off the whole area, make it a marine reserve.
- More marine farms to balance.
- More marine reserves equal to marine farms.

5.9 Milford to Long Bay

- Over 25 years, cycles haven't changed – penguins suffer when there is no fish due to pollution.
- Got heaps of penguins during the Americas Cup games due to ship strike.
- There are no terns any more or very few – we used to look for terns diving. Now we look for gannets to indicate where kahawai are.
- Very few kelp beds any more.
- Big change at Campbells Bay – used to be loads of mussels and paddle crabs – now there is nothing.
- KCC kids club junior forest and bird trips to Long Bay - doing the marine meter square, couldn't find any crabs at all.
- Ross has all the data from monitoring rock pools. There was one occurrence of sediment – we find the life occurrences change due to sand movements and large storms.

5.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- Reef restoration can take place through volunteer action and make a difference in three months.
- Seabed restoration bay by bay.
- Birdsong at Tiri is growing by the year – a wonderful example of regeneration.
- We take visitors there when there's a northerly, otherwise it's pretty choppy.
- Couple of springs ago, at the canal at Gulf Harbour we were painting the bridge – there were over 12 tui in the pohutukawa trees.
- They have two voice boxes and can imitate which is why the North Island and the South Island tui sound so different.
- I like that idea where Tiri is the home for the birds and there is a green corridor all the way over to the Waitakeres – planted on the way to support the birds.

- At Shakespeare Sanctuary (SOSSI) there are 25 nesting species of sea bird. We have something like 10% of the world's seabird population. There is a HG Forum report on it – don't quote me for the figure.
- Sanctuaries are springing up all around the Gulf. It is a great thing. Shakespeare's is very accessible – you can drive there. Sanctuaries will need public support.
- We interact with the sea from the shore – these school programmes which clean up the coastline – the school kids take sacks full.
- We need land and water sanctuaries – the whole ecology.
- I support the proposals for more marine protected areas. Reserves help the fish to breed and live safely.
- Without reserves the fish are bombarded with noise and other stressors like being caught on a hook. Reserves provide safe places, especially for crayfish to breed.
- There are lots of birds living around Coromandel near the cockles – raiding the shore there is a risk of them overfishing!
- Tui are good but the goal is to have bellbirds, the sound of bellbirds – the goal should be bellbirds in your garden.
- Through a long association with the Peninsula I have seen the devastation. I am out walking regularly. There are good models for eliminating the animal pests.
- We need to sacrifice now so that we can have more.
- There are dozens of islands that are places for breeding.
- With reserves we are not sure can I go? Or not? Perhaps consider less reserves around the busy parts of the Gulf. Future areas could be further afield so it doesn't interfere with leisure.
- The Poor Knights seems to be a breeding ground for a different range of fish – we need to know the breeding places so we can say this area is okay for boaties and this one has to be safeguarded.
- What better way to get people to care for the ocean than to see a reserve a place in pristine condition
- I would like to see different marine reserves, no set netting, no taking shellfish, the sea weed and shellfish are still there for the snapper to eat.
- Exotic species in the water and on land – pacific oysters, seaweed, Japanese oysters – they are very dangerous. Also on land where we are trying to protect native birds. There are heaps of exotic plants trying to strangle native plants. Also education for the public, because they don't all think like we do – their practices don't always exhibit what they would like to do. For some, who have no money, it's expedient to take what they can. It's obvious we have to have a clean, healthy environment that is sustainable. There are too many exotics here to stay, like mynahs and invasive sea slugs.
- We need a really large network of marine reserves, partly educational, so the fish have an opportunity to establish themselves. Look at the contact at Goat Island. There's a push back – 'not in my backyard'. We need another 20 (MPAs) and of a reasonable size – 80% or 90% for fishing. Fishermen don't have to have all the Gulf. I'm talking about ones that are good for the Gulf...
- My wish is for...my great-grandchildren to go to the pools and see cockabullies, crabs, shrimp and snapping shrimp, starfish, anemones, all the small creatures in the rock pools I want them to be able to discover. This would be a really good outcome as it would tell us that everything else is in balance.
- I would propose more marine reserves around NZ's coastline.

5.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- No periwinkles/cats eyes. Thought it was poaching but now believe it is due to sediment.
- No more cockles.
- More sea grass.
- Herons nest at northern end.
- Pohutukawa have been there since beginning of time.
- Used to get lots of sharks – hammerheads and others – in 1970s and prolific amount of flounder.
- Really interested in bird life.
- The herons' nest at the southern end of Snells Beach, they have been there since the beginning of time. We've lost the coastline at the south end repeatedly and then it's come back again – it does come and go.
- I'm really interested in bird life.
- I don't like to see the dogs chasing the birds. I can see the godwits. We've been watching them coming in for years. They come in here on the sea grass flats, they mostly go up to Omaha and sit on the spit. They roost quite often on Snells Beach.
- The sea squirt has become abundant. It looks like dead floppy fingers and has thrived here recently in sandstone reefs and in channels, on the piles of the main Sandspit wharf, it's just covered in it. They will grow on loose cockle shells. They are in huge numbers in Northland. It will be a huge thing, once they get to Kohimarama and Takapuna. They are just horrible. A lot of invasive species bloom and then drop back to a small number. Undaria seaweed is becoming more abundant.
- There are an incredible number of dogs running on the beach – don't think it's good for them to be chasing the birds.
- We've been watching the godwits. Good feeding place for godwits and terns on the sea grass. They roost at the northern end of Snells.
- Noticed invasive sea squirt (ascidian) in 2010. Are these edible?
- Usually the invasive species bloom then drop in numbers. But undaria has not done that – it continues to increase in numbers and proves to be a big problem.
- It looks like big, dead, droopy fingers, thousands on main Sandspit Wharf and sandstone cliffs, grows on cockle beds.
- Widespread in Northland.
- People will make a huge stink when they see them at Kohi.
- Mussels on mooring poles will come and go.
- Little black mussels come and go.
- Used to be much more crayfish – at marine reserves there are loads more but reefs in between there are kina barrens.
- There are a lot of eagle rays – they are very prevalent at oyster farms, they go in between the poles and our legs. They are lovely creatures.
- Snells Beach has changed ecology because of arrival of sea grass – this has changed use.
- Sea grass is beneficial to birds, seem to be more piper – I can't remember that many piper when I was a kid.
- There was always sea grass in outer Mahurangi – Lagoon Bay, Tekapa Bay.
- Is sea grass a bad thing? No! It's a great thing – it's used for juvenile fish as a nursery.
- There used to be little mussels. There are still a lot on the floating collars – they drop off and grow on the bottom too. The little black ones come and go. I have been diving since 1960 and there used to be a lot of crayfish, but there's virtually none around where you can take them, and the reefs in between are just urchin barrens. There are a lot of eagle rays, a bit

seasonal, more than when I was a kid. They will swim between you and you can see both sides of them. In the 40s and 50s there used to be a lot more flounder.

- (In cockles)...there's a little parasite, normally at very, very low levels and in 2009 in Jan and Feb there were two periods when we had really hot summer days and low tides and the theory is that that stressed the cockles and allowed the parasites to flourish. It happened a few weeks ago and they are still recovering.
- Snells Beach has obviously changed because of the ecology of the sea grass, and in Kawau Bay it seems to me that there is not as much fish life in the bay.
- The sea grass has been beneficial to the birds and I know there is a lot of Piper in the bay now.
- I'd like to see it preserved as much as possible in its most natural state – also like to see it used but used with a conscience and a caring approach. I would like to see a marine reserve of some sort established in Kawau Bay. I've spoken to Roger as to where that might be. I think there are a couple of islands where the surrounds would make a really good marine reserve. I have a grandchild and she will want to use it something like we did.
- I'd think dredging the Mahurangi would probably improve the ecosystem.
- The marine reserves around the Island, I'm for that. The distance from the coast depends – Goat Island extends 800m off shore.
- (Wish for) ...birds continue to come and go and do their thing unmolested.
- To see a marine reserve established in Bay – I have an unscientific guess where it could be there and a couple of islands in the Bay where it could be.
- She'll want to be able to use it the way we did.
- Everyone wants to freeze-frame environments and there is a real NIMBY feeling.
- Dredge Mahurangi Harbour would help ecosystems.
- Reforest Pukapuka in bush.
- Reforestation and care for land is to be done and seen as a partnership between planners and locals.
- Wish to see every marine area around the islands/every island as marine reserve.
- The bigger the reserve is, the better they are, but if you had big reserves there would be nothing left.
- Beehive Island could be a marine reserve.
- Whangateau Harbour – 10 point plan – no fishing zone around Horseshoe Island. Most magical place – south of causeway could be extension of scientific study zone in kahikatea.
- Why is there no marine reserve around Tiri? Fishers hammered us down.
- Marine reserve – should be representative of every habitat.
- 30 years want to see riparian edges planted.
- I wish we had a least 10% as marine reserves protected and secure, or rahui, I don't mind. There's a goal for 10% and there are lots of reasons for that.
- Beehive Island has beautiful intertidal flats – it looks very tropical. You see it on your right going out to Kawau Island, like a Robinson Crusoe island.
- We tried to get a marine reserve around Tiri but TOSSI was opposed to it, along with the recreational fishers. But that does seem to be changing.
- The reserves shouldn't just be all around the islands, but should be representative of all the habitats.

5.12 Kawau Island

- We are the conservationists now – we had more ducks and frogs but they have been whipped out by the weka that DOC dropped here.

- This place needs to continue to be safe from fire, cigarettes, camp fires which can all put the island at risk.
- I support the wallabies staying because they've been here for a long time and people love to come and see them. If we get rid of them now the ecosystem will become unbalanced. It has adapted to kiwi, weka and wallabies – where else has all this? We are the only island with weka, wallabies and kiwi.

5.13 Great Barrier Island

- Sea had more bird life, gannets. We were very focused on the boat, took for granted what we had.
- Walking bush tracks to catch fishing of the rocks – would catch fish on own, or with family. Experienced humpback whales in inner Gulf, recently seen them again. Also Brydes whale. Experienced on giving birth (recently) common site seeing whales. On way to and from Rakino boat circled by whales.
- ... rafts of birds off Matarangi Beach – the seas looked black because of the number of them.
- Used to get elephant seals.
- Humpback whales and Brydes whales between Whangaparapara and Okupu.
- Parore for crayfish bait were everywhere, flitting and darting. Even so I set a net last week and got eight or nine parore and eight or nine trevally. We don't eat parore. There are still schools in the mouth of the estuary of mullet and trevally. And snapper in amongst the mangroves.
- As a kid I learnt to ride a horse through the estuary. Snapper would leap out under our feet. In the late 60s I was doing some lambing and I saw from my horse snapper schooling and coming in from the Gulf. That was how you got around – n horses.
- The Leigh lab came in the early 80s to visit the estuary. They said the estuary is a jewel in the crown. Relatively unspoilt system. Compact and so we had an opportunity to conserve a whole system that has not been impacted.
- The sea weed used to be six foot deep and two chain wide after a storm, the flies would come and blow their eggs through it, then it would be crawling with maggots, then the piper would come, then the kahawai and kingies to feast.
- Then on to the rocks, the packhorse crays would come out on to the rocks at dusk. Some were over 33 pounds – there were monsters.
- There was every sort of fish, when the storm moved from the sou-east to sou-west, you could see all types of fish visible in the breakers in the sun – kahawai, shark, kingfish, large sharks.
- In Feb, sharks in Tryphena for three weeks, monsters.
- Fish on the rocks, everywhere.
- You didn't have to leave the Island as there were fish everywhere.
- The biggest thing I notice now, is the lack of maomao. They used to follow you around. Break a kina and the maomao would come. Last time I saw them was about three years ago – there is a notable absence.
- Sea grass beds were knocked back and there were dead patches, might have been silting, but two years ago it started to grow back.
- Cockle beds in Puriri Bay decreased. There's also less seaweed and less variety of seaweeds.
- The harbours are accessible, the reefs are accessible. Is it over fishing that is reducing the varieties?
- Seals returned last summers.
- Barren areas – big boulder areas – used to be more seaweed.

- People came to the Barrier to get away from bureaucracy – now they come for the environment.
- Sense of hope – we love our island, we want to be a part of it. There the is a feeling that momentum is starting to build and changes in the DOC estate.
- Less gannets now, we've taken a section of the food pyramid out.
- More people are turning to eco-tourism to make a living. We have two or three seasonal jobs to take in home stays and lodgers then something else in the winter to carry us through.
- There are less species (fish) and not as many fish. In some areas it is bleak – there is nothing.
- Fitzroy and Broken Island are desolate.
- I have started to keep a diary. In the last three years have noticed the pack horse crays are coming back. Red crays are getting harder.
- Big snapper are more rarely seen.
- Kina barrens are massive! On the west coast the kelp is better. On the east coast there is less kelp and lots of barrens. You've got to swim right out over the barrens.
- Diving and spear fishing are my favourites. In the last three years at the Needles or Arid Island there are thousands of maomao – it's seasonal.
- Papis gone, no snapper left to eat the paddle crabs, only pipi tiddlers.
- To walk through the bush and hear the bird song that you hear on Little Barrier on this Island. I don't see why it's not achievable, goes hand in hand with decreasing pests and encouraging tourism.
- For a marine reserve. As proposed X point to out the back of Arid out 20km. Even though this is my fishing area, and our quiet beach would be no more, but the benefit for the Island would be great. There was a proposal in the 1980s as well, the locals supported , DOC did, then there was a change in government and it didn't happen. Imagine how amazing it would be now.
- Wish: that we had the balls to do it (marine reserve). We have an opportunity to protect species. The East coast of the Island is a bit more self-regulated as it's more exposed. What about the naval exclusion area?
- To hear a dawn chorus that isn't mynahs.
- Changing mentality: a marine reserve to show/tell people how rich the marine environment is. Change the mentality to enjoyment not just catching.
- Have protected areas that don't exclude everybody and everything.
- The gannet colony has doubled in size.
- I wish for a marine reserve for all species, at all stages of the life cycle in a particular area. I dived in the Leigh Reserve, it's amazing but you don't need 20-30 miles – a small area, and with us in charge of it.
- I hope that the 50 NZ dotterels are still here in 30 years or more (or more dotterel). It will only happen if we are aware and knowledgeable – we need public awareness and a single body taking care of the Gulf.
- Qualities of this Island and the Gulf are like a national park, there is a trend to develop these. Residents are recognised as caretakers with privileges and rights – kaitiakitanga.
- Reef restoration trust get re-seeding, we use to re-seed as we went, and you can get a feed of mussels.
- I feel strongly about a proper marine reserve where there is already abundance – not in an area where it is all gone. You can always fish there along the line (the edge). We choose the right area for fish to re-stock, for many species. Raoul Island is the best marine reserve. I've been there, in the world it was in a decent state when it became a reserve, so it could maintain its own balance.
- Bring back the paua. I want to look down at the rocks and see them, not taken.

- That people don't take small shells. It frigging annoys me, the new comers (holiday makers) come and get in a frenzy.
- That Waipupu Creek and Sugar Loaf are in a mataitai, there are paua, crays, mussels, fish and pipis and beautiful reefs.
- Kaitoke means food of the worm or the conga eel (food only for the chiefs).
- Plentiful food for fish. There were so many birds, wing to wing feeding on the paddocks, that they would get under the plough. They would cover the ground. 30-40 schools of fish were usual – bring this back.
- My wish is that we see no more dead penguins washing ashore like a bag of feathers from starvation.
- In my world, you'd go to Sugar Loaf and get hapuka off the rocks – used to do this only in 60 feet of water.
- We're talking about a pristine Island, in 20-30 years. I want to see the sea pristine. Let's try and make an effort and sort out our own stuff for our own places. We live in a pretty nice place.
- At heart, I'm a commercial fisherman and a conservationist. My wish would be that there are more people educated about the environment. There's so much we don't know. Recreational and commercial fisherman, we have our theories.
- Biodiversity restored, all our big school fish returned, and with sea birds – abundance, diversity, clean water.
- My kids and their kids are able to get a feed and there is enough to go around. I want a marine reserve and new regulations for commercial fishing. We live in paradise. Let's keep it.
- Lovely healthy nikau.
- I want to see one area with no take, rather than a marine reserve. What's the point of making a reserve all around Arid Island if we can't police it.
- Arid Island status the best breeding ground, we need to avoid bugging the whole food cycle. We don't know enough so we need to watch what we do. What if we did stuff on your lawn and you didn't know enough. This is our lawn.

5.14 Devonport/Takapuna

- The rock pools are better. My kids go and jump off the wharf, like we did 50 years ago. The teenagers go to the islands to plant trees, they've learned sailing. We've taken them to Tiri to see the trees we planted there 40 years ago. Tiri is absolutely magic – take any visitor there. And to Motutapu.
- Sea weed is what is supposed to be on beaches and it holds the sand in place and feeds the shellfish.
- I'd like to see it (the Gulf) strengthened, with marine reserves dotted through it, with buy-in from communities. They have done it in Australia – there's no reason they couldn't do it here.
- I would like my grandchildren to be able to take their children down to the beach and still find starfish.
- I want to see the sea protected with marine reserves.

5.15 Kaiaua

- Mangroves – places where they are beneficial and other places where they are not. They have shifted up the coast from Waitakaruru. Shouldn't have a protected 'sacred status'.
- Mangroves helpful at protecting foot of stopbanks.

- Mangroves need to be managed – not total removal. Look at where they are protecting land, have other roles such as marine ecosystem services, or impeding access.
- Mangrove strip inside shellbank – okay to keep these as providing habitat for other species e.g. rail and bittern.
- Mangroves – need to be able to maintain open areas (pulling out seedlings) for foraging, sub-roost area and shore bird habitats.
- Opportunities for expanding bird roost.
- Stone bank area used to be a bird roost.
- Opportunity with the Kaiaua to Kopu cycleway to re-establish wetland areas between the stop bank and the mangroves.
- Securing habitat for shorebird, health of inter-tidal area, securing high-tide bird roosts, unobstructed.
- Firth – the engine room of the Hauraki Gulf & species of shark will pup?
- Habitat for other marine mammals – need to continue to look at their behaviour. We need to preserve & enhance the habitat.

5.16 St Mary's Bay

- There is no life in the rock pools any more.
- We need to try to stop the arrival of pest species like fan worms.
- Waiake has changed from a place teeming with life to there being nothing. It not a place you would want to visit now.
- You could jump over the boat into the water at Stingray Bay and you could swim with so many stingrays – there are none to be seen now. Maybe because of more orca – who knows? Is there any research being done on this?
- In our recent years of sailing I also haven't seen many groups of diving gannets. You see the odd individual but not many. Where have they gone?
- We should do what they did on Stewart Island – put a moratorium/blanket agreement to protect species and allow them to come back.
- Put the moratorium at different areas for a specific time/species.

5.17 Mercury Bay

- Shells were mainly pipi – in some middens there were millions.
- No paddle crabs back then.
- The Gulf becomes sustainable – more marine reserves, small pockets of protected areas, even some for just a couple of years while the spot recovers.
- More educated.
- Today's rock pools are missing life and the maumau are gone but sometimes it's because of the storms.
- The critters are coming back, especially in the reserves in the protected areas.
- Watching birdlife through sea kayaking and flocks of diving birds are smaller – however water is cold so maybe we are seeing something different.
- Marine reserves are giving general public a chance to see as well as the stock recovering.
- New research is going on about the black petrel and educating the public. We are looking toward the future more.
- Schools are embracing the coastal environment and taking responsibility, teaching sustainability.

- All New Zealanders place as much emphasis on marine areas as we do today with our islands.
- As much effort for the sea.
- See past the blue – that the marine environment is worthy of protection.

5.18 Maraetai

- I am concerned about the sea floor. With the reduction or removal of all the mussels we now have so many more invasive species. We have sea squirts. My family and I do the scallop fest thing but now have parasites in the scallops – where did they come from? Ballast from big container ships? And the fan worm... it's really concerning.
- We need to have better monitoring – I take my boat up the coast and they (Tutukaka and up) are all educated on pests and all want to know where we have come from.
- We need better education on all of this stuff.
- The sea floor is like a garden or a paddock – if it is healthy then the whole system will be healthy.
- We need to get back to thinking about the whole ecosystem.

5.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- Wish there were more wildlife in the Gulf and that we will be able to see kiwis and birds and in 30 years' time some of the islands tree clad.
- Biosecurity is the most important for the Gulf – sea squirts, didimot, fan worm are taking hold.
- ..for marine life first and foremost.

5.20 Hobsonville

- Back then we weren't allowed to remove the mangroves but now the young ones can be cleared from the waterways so we can use them again.
- Boaties are much more environmentally conscious than they used to be.
- Wisely Road had a white sand bank. It's now gone and the mangroves are taking over and the channel is disappearing. It drives me crazy – that was my lovely view!
- In the last 10 years the Poor Knights have gone from no snapper to snapper everywhere within the reserve.
- Kawakawa Point was cleared out of mussels but they are returning.
- Protect, enhance coastal habitats, for the birds too.

5.21 Tairua

- 52 bird species counted (Bruce Gilberd): slight reduction in pied stilt numbers but staying fairly consistent, species maintained but numbers down
- Canadian geese numbers 400! Used to be a dozen or only a few – what's the impact on environments, odour etc.?
- Tuatara still on Aldermans.
- Marine reserves: use a section of Aldermans.
- Commercial ships cost cutting – how close are they getting? Risk? What comes first: ecology or economy?

- Are they discharging tanks, predators impacting predator free islands?
- A private marina developer has been allowed to dispose of sand all around the beaches, without any involvement of neighbors, who in some cases do not want it. This has changed the nature of some areas and destroyed the habitat of some bioata.
- Bird numbers in the estuary have diminished in the last 30 years.
- For probably the last 4 years we have been unable to harvest shellfish due to the toxic algae.
 - While it is suggested that this is a natural occurrence it is not something that had occurred years ago.
 - There must be some factor which is causing these algae to grow at a rate to create the need for a ban. (It is currently lifted, but will probably recur next summer.)
- Re-introduction of special species, would be nice for our islands.
- Proximity of land/mainland sites and offshore islands – species on both?
- Predator control. Don't have to do much to see change, harbour edges.
- Perception, being able to know species are there. To be able to think about & communicate to people what's there.
- It is great to see the establishment of island conservation areas such as Tiritiri Matangi.

SECTION 6



6 Aquaculture

6.1 Ngatea

- Under the mussel farms there is black sediment underneath – is that harmful? (Peter: that's waste from the mussels, it's a local effect and cleans itself up quickly). Do mussel farms get that space for free? (Peter explains about aquaculture bonds to councils, coastal occupation charges).
- There is a visual impact of mussel farms, were hard to see, but they are better marked now.
- Done to stop the trawlers coming through them (the mussel farms) too.
- Mussel farms are not a problem – you can go fishing in them, they're not a hazard to my interests.
- More numbers then – mussel farms have increased tourism in the Gulf because of the good fishing around the farms. Increased charter boat fishing.
- On the Kaiaua side – can catch kingfish near mussel farms, wouldn't catch them without it.
- Three years ago on Boxing Day – 500-600 boats fishing out from Waikawau – all heading to the mussel farms. That brings a lot of boats, cars, selling of fuel, etc. to the area.

6.2 Thames

- Mussels farms, good fishing.
- I saw a documentary on fish farming. Lots of antibiotics, etc. added. It was a bad thing for environment. 15m high mounds of detritus under farms. Worried about fish farming here. What are the controls?
- I don't think there will be any interest in fish farming. Too rough.
- Mussel farms...affects sailing anchorages. In past, filtered the water but farms affect public ownership.
- Don't think the farms are an issue for anchorages. One can navigate through them okay.

6.3 Whangamata

- Busier, marine farming encroachment (beneficial?) Still relatively unpolluted.

6.4 Hamilton

- When I was 13 there were no mussel farms, but mussel reefs.
- Mussel farms Wilsons Bay to Kaiaua fish well consistently.
- No more mussel farms. There is only fish in them, because of food source available there. Underneath them they are dead. What happens if you put a mussel farm over a scallop bed? They die.
- Nature has been unbalanced with mussel farms.
- What about fish farms? They are just horrendous. I've dived under salmon farms in the Sounds.
- Prolific marine farms, I'd hate to be a yachtie or someone cruising trying to find a bay without a mussel farm in it.

6.5 Coromandel

- Plastic rubbish from the mussel farms, the mussel farming companies are cleaning up the foreshore now.
- Mussel farm reports for Hauraki Gulf Forum on benthic populations.
- Mussel and oyster farms – is there going to be more?
- Little bays along coast - what's happening in between?
- Oysters and mussels, what has been originally allocated and what area is now being used in comparison?

6.6 Kaipatiki

- There are mussel farms in the Coromandel and they are marvellous (for attracting fish).
- Choice TV has a lot of projects about the fishing industry. They used to be out raking up seaweed and now they are farming it and exporting it to Japan.
- Council gathers the seaweed and takes it to the tip. I go and gather it and take it to my garden! All my life we have got dinghy loads of seaweed, so much you can hardly row it.
- I go to Milford and Murrays Bay too to collect seaweed. It is good for peaches and everything. Seaweed is marvellous. So good, I feel like eating it! (But) we are polluting our waterways, so I'm not eating seaweed, thank you!
- I go (to the beaches) after an easterly and you know there's going to be lovely stuff on the beach. Usually I get it from Murray's Bay. But they've lost a lot of sand. Recently I've never seen the beach so bare. There is definitely change over time.

6.7 Waiheke Island

- 1970s start of aquaculture, oyster farm in Oneroa.
- The oyster farms came first and then followed by the mussels as they became hailed as the best thing for arthritis. Mussel farm was in Pakatoa [Island]. That's now managed from Coromandel.

6.8 Upper Waihou

- When I drive to the Coromandel now, there's a huge increase in aquaculture now, mussel farms and the like. They're everywhere, in every little bay.
- Last time I drove down there, must have been low tide, you could see all these sticks poking out. Good for the fisherman I suppose, they all go out and do it. But I don't like it.
- The aquaculture boys don't mind a lot of nutrient.
- You get so many bays and so many of them now.
- Maybe we should have more of them.

6.9 Milford to Long Bay

6.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- Aquaculture is fantastic – it attracts the fish.
- Marker buoys hold enough mussels for a feed, even for boaties.

- Fishing around the mussel farms is great.
- If all of Waiheke were a string of mussel farms, I would be worried.
- Concern about the idea of salmon and fish farming with all the intensive feed that goes into the water but oysters and mussels are filtering.
- In Man of War Bay there are mussel beds and good fish – everybody wins. Can still anchor. It's accessible. There are two main sections of mussel farm and the boats can move around. There are lots of little boats fishing in between the farms.
- The owner asks us to clean the buoys for him while we are out there today.

6.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- I would hate to see marine farming in Kawau Bay – fin fish in the bay would be horrid.
- The wish is that, no, the caring for the land is seen as a partnership between the landowner and the local body. That's a really critical balance. We will work together to do this. This partnership could extend to the Gulf. Every gulf island, where the surrounding sea was protected: 50 islands, 50 reserves – include Scott's Landing. If we did that we'd have wonderful fishing in the harbour.
- Hate to see marine farms, especially finfish in Kawau Bay.

6.12 Kawau Island

6.13 Great Barrier Island

- Not much aquaculture. Aquaculture struggling? Impact from previous owner over-extending. Used to be locally owned and operated. Now operated by off Islanders, not locals operating them.
- We get knotted ropes at certain times of year all around the island. I am told they are from aquaculture. Not seeing them as much now, but also know that the locals are cleaning them up after harvest.
- Mussel farms were a family thing – hey were a community thing from here, and the people were from here. Two to three mussel farms are still locally owned but are leased out. Some of them are Sanford owned, and there are locals harvesting.
- That's a sign of the times – corporate ownership. Businesses in the 1980's were forestry, then crayfish, then longliners, then the government streamlined and people sold quota. It's like all primary industries, farming etc. They now need economies of scale.
- Mussel farms attract giant snapper. They are like a super market – you go out and catch what you need for dinner.
- In the future I want to see more marine farming of paua, and types of seafood farmed successfully (I've got serious issues with these sea urchins) as a way or regenerating, and jobs, and locals, more re-seeding.
- No additional marine farming in Port Fitzroy. It's so special and so beautiful. Tension between jobs / beauty. My wish is pristine harbours with no man-made structures (not ever but in places).

6.14 Devonport/Takapuna

6.15 Kaiaua

- Fish fin farming in this part of the Gulf(the Firth part)?
- Is it crazy?
- Doubt that it is viable.
- Don't think it's something worth pursuing.
- 300ha zoned west of Coromandel for fin fish farming.
- Impact of trawling for finfish farming.
- Look at what's happened in Marlborough.
- Chile – cage fish farming a massive failure.
- Documentation of environmental impact of fin fish farming.
- Antibiotics & impact on natural fisheries.
- Disease impacts?
- Shellfish – lots of new applications for farming.
- WRC looking at opening up a can of worms, re new applications for aquaculture.
- Amenity value & resulting impact on recreation values.
- If had shellfish farm, would Kaiaua then need sewerage treatment plant because of e-coli?
- Septic tank impacts.
- Spat catching areas put in – do these then become permanent farms? Want to see small increments to test change...
- Impact on tide flow from large areas.
- Lots of applications for aquaculture on ice at the moment.
- Westpac mussel application – test case.
- Value in the amenity that is there already.
- Community ownership of space.
- What's worrying me each day by the 10th of March will be test case for Westpac Aquaculture? can't visualise the impact e.g. recreation impact, fishing access, 1993 started farming in the area, spat catching Aotea, here – can't get good catch. 90 mile spat catch not like it used to be. They are saying going to use area for mussel spat catching so where will they farm the catch? Waimunga Point farm (just north of Kaiaua) 5ha then did 13ha, stocking rate less than other farmers so that they grow quickly, what will 5000ha do?
- I see people in this room who looked a lot younger and happier a few years ago, who have put years of energy into battling & worrying about the impact of extended aquaculture, their worry is returning.

6.16 St Mary's Bay

6.17 Mercury Bay

6.18 Maraetai

- I like to see more mussel farms.
 - They have not affected navigation for boats.
 - They clean up the water and bring in fish.

6.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- On Coromandel there is a huge amount of rubbish from the mussel farms? bits of rope, floats and plastic clips.
- Generally the mussel farmers keep themselves to themselves – the mussels are now much more widely available all over the Gulf with the spat spreading and growing. We scrubbed down and there were 3 bins of mussels grown by themselves in the harbour. There are mussels now in Okahu Bay.

6.20 Hobsonville

- The mussel farms are good for feeding the fish.

6.21 Tairua



SECTION 7

7 Comments on implementation

7.1 Ngatea

- The goal is to leave things better than we've found them.

7.2 Thames

- Are hearing from other people talking about the future. Our task is to take it on.
- Different ages, backgrounds. But we all want the same thing: want to preserve its beauty, want to be part of it.
- Concerned that will be over-regulated.

7.3 Whangamata

- It has never been more important than the present to protect our coastal regions. 'Why didn't they do anything Grandpa' is not something we should ever hear.
- Councils should think 100 year plans NOT short term plans – think future sustainability.
- Cleaner and protected. Introduce more management initiatives relating to the environment. Reward people for taking care of both coastal and waterways areas and punish unmercifully those who plunder our resources. Embrace our culture and history surrounding the region and educate accordingly. We have such a rich but short history and this needs to be to the forefront, not hijacked by selfish land grabbers with hidden personal agendas. The ability to enjoy...

7.4 Hamilton

7.5 Coromandel

7.6 Kaipatiki

7.7 Waiheke Island

7.8 Upper Waihou

- As you get more and more science, economic and environmental are coming closer and closer.
- They do seem to.

7.9 Milford to Long Bay

7.10 Orewa, Waiwera and Red Beach

- I would like decisions to be made on good science rather than pressure groups. We need to set the bar a lot higher in terms of what's good for the environment. If we all hurt together for the benefit of the Gulf, though, I'm sure we can come up with ideas where we don't all have to hurt so much. Scientists will say this is the best and based on our snapper quota will be this, and we can try and then renegotiate it. If this generation doesn't take some of the pain I think we are in danger of losing a lot!
- One of the issues of an aged group is we all have a higher level of morality that tends to wish for higher environmental outcomes. How can we eke out the same standard of living? That creates a bit of a problem. We need to identify the values we want to preserve. That might mean we have to lock up areas; and we have to identify areas that enable investment opportunities, as a gateway to these protected areas. Driving through Europe, you wonder how they have a held the boundary of their 500 year towns. It can be done, but it takes good leadership.
- People are keenly aware that if the Gulf is stuck, their children are stuck. You get the sense of a driver. You hear it on Kawau Island and on Great Barrier: how do you find fresh ways of making a living within an ecological environment?
- We have been talking with people who have deep roots in the community. People are saying young parents are teaching their children about planting and caring for their environment. They get it much more at school now. People who are coming here, who haven't had a generation here, see it differently, but every generation here gets slightly more protective.

7.11 Mahurangi, Snells & Algies Beaches

- The wish is that the caring for the land is seen as a partnership between the landowner and the local body. That's a really critical balance. We will work together to do this. This partnership could extend to the Gulf. Every gulf island, where the surrounding sea was protected: 50 islands, 50 reserves? include Scott's Landing. If we did that we'd have wonderful fishing in the harbour.
- Principle of partnership be expanded to Gulf.

7.12 Kawau Island

- We've always had to fight bureaucracy to live the way we want to. Council want to cut back on moorings but that is my car park.
- You need to take a look at our plan! We have planned and have legislation to show where we need moorings but you are going to change all that with this new plan...?
- I can't see how this information is going to make a difference.
- There was more freedom then, less rules and less electricity.
- There is much more unity at the moment because we have had to fight to be heard and to protect some of the way we want things to be done.
- When my kids come here, they know all the neighbours. Right now there is the peace of the trees, we catch fish, swim, sit and talk, play cards – they love it here because Kawau has a magic about it. This is what we don't want to lose.

- We found out that Kawau was ‘independent’ or not part of a council till 1968 like an independent republic and we would like to go back to that. We are an island and our needs are so different – the basics of everyday life are so different from other places.
- If we had autonomy we could keep Kawau the way it is, work together and run ourselves because the neighbours are working in with each other now.
- We’ve been stuffed up by the bureaucrats every which way – the fishing quota, the building standards for our wharves...
- The Gulf has been stuffed up the bureaucrats. The level of bureaucracy has increased.
- We need a macro vision for the Gulf and a micro vision for the Island and I think 30 years from now Kawau could be an independent island nation. We may have our spat about wallabies and weka. We are a good cross section of community but we are also intelligent, coherent and we have a common purpose (see Vision Kawau).
- Water and land for me are inseparable.
- I worry about Treaty claims and iwi coming and breaking us all up. Leave us alone.
- We want to be left alone to have autonomy on our own properties (manuka supports for jetties for instance), plant our trees and care for them without being interfered with.
- Still fishing, swimming, planting vegetation, more bird life – for 30 years and longer.
- As a visitor it is enchanting how can we hold onto this for 20-30 years.
- We had to lower our roof line to fit in with some bureaucratic rule so my wish is that we can have sensible rules that are made for here, not somewhere else, for our own environment.
- I want to see some clarity about who manages this place. Is it DOC, is it Auckland Council, is it someone else? clarity is the thing for me about who looks after what.

7.13 Great Barrier Island

- Similar culture now, we are red neck, national party voters. DOC is a dirty word around here. Not conservationists, but we are in a way in that we want to conserve.
- Massive amount of miscommunication between landowners and with agencies e.g. Council and DOC. For example weed control, need permission from landowners to control the weeds, then landowner won’t let them on the land, there is a lack of faith and a conspiracy for why we are wanting to go on there.
- I wish that all these things come true, and that our grandkids say that their grandparents were shit hot for getting all this done.
- For coming generations, people come here and are still blown away – the environment, the bush, the fishing, take areas and no-take areas (this is not straight forward).
- Less bloody bureaucracy.

7.14 Devonport/Takapuna

- There are too many committees and layers of local government.
- With 4 million people, Auckland, it would be nice if they could keep it the way it is now .
- I would like to see the huge and ineffective management schemes clarified, so everyone knows their rights and the intentions for the Gulf and what we are trying to do with the Gulf.
- I think we need some fearsome guardians and kaitiaki of the Gulf who are charged with ensuring the principles of the Gulf are maintained. Part of which is to explore visionary opportunities, but always in consultation. I think what can be done with fierce protection is powerful.
- It would be nice if we had many guardians, who could speak (for the Gulf). I think that would be quite powerful!

- Extend the partnerships that have started and been made real with people power.
- I'd like to see the Gulf stay as it is. The only way that will happen is if there is an over-arching agreement between all the government organisations. There's got to be buy-in into some agreed planning. It's too fragmented.
- You can develop the region without detracting from the Hauraki Gulf. Let Auckland become prosperous. Our asset is our absolute interface.
- The worst things that have been done by the HG Marine Park have been done by the government. Our vision is that this land and gulf is sacrosanct.
- All the organisations and government groups have bits of responsibility. All this is being duck shoved. And you don't hear about it, till the proverbial hits the fan.

7.15 Kaiaua

- It's all about integration impact: there's been years of discussion, it's not about individual things, it's about economic benefit without compromising life-sustaining systems.
- Political clout & mandate needed.
- One significant opportunity to bring about change – collective change.
- Firth the most productive marine area in New Zealand – need really significant change with clout!!
- If this can't be achieved, we never will.

7.16 St Mary's Bay

- The torturous relationship between the agencies – let's clean it up and make it a beautiful landscape.

7.17 Mercury Bay

- Better today there is more knowledge – the quota management system, better research, interventions. Need to know which things are working and improving.
- Effects from technology, government changes like SMP, rural bank lending, climate, ecology, education, human or population – we need to have a pie chart that shows the biggest impacts.
- We want a Gulf that is managed – ALL the effects are managed. We know the triggers and somehow everybody fits into the Gulf.
- It's 'the commons'. Remember the tragedy of the commons where because nobody owned it, nobody looked after it. There is a lesson here for us. We need more protected areas in the next 20-30 years to give the sea time to rebalance. We have an imbalance in the ocean now.

7.18 Maraetai

7.19 Point England/Tamaki River

- See it better, not worse.
- More education for the newcomers – for safety and where education and peer pressure fails, then fisheries officers with bigger sticks to get the ratbags.
- Deal with the big stuff first. Don't fiddle around at the fringe – make a difference.

7.20 Hobsonville

- The ARC and ARA had lots of people looking after the coast – dedicated resources. Now it's hard to find the interest.
- We are noticing that the Council owns the last 20m before the water starts and it just doesn't look after it.
- It's very regulated today.
- All the rules are different – dogs on beaches etc., etc. Coromandel rules and Leigh side are chalk and cheese as far as rules and behaviour.
- There seem to be no powers to look after the Gulf as a whole. The right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing.
- We are all part of the solution.
- A clean gulf not over regulated - too many times rules and regulations make it worse.
- I'd like to see the rules that are made also enforced and things like an oil spill just get taken care of.

7.21 Tairua

- There will come a time where hardnosed, key decisions (that may not be popular) will have to be made. Pamphlet this. Have noticed at times a collapse of intent, having the guts to do what needs to happen & monitor it.
- While aiming for consensus...may not get it.
- Constituent agencies have to keep own troops informed and in the loop...take them on the journey.
- Needs to be a integrated picture: clarity. What's in it? What's on it?
- Hauraki Gulf Forum seems to spend a lot of time talking but not doing.
- While I support the spatial plan concept, planning of itself achieves nothing. Some real action (including community groups) would be beneficial.

