

Greater Marine Protection for **Auckland's Wild West Coast**

Draft Proposal for Public Discussion



Prepared by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, in consultation with the West Coast Working Group, March 2003



The funding for this project has been kindly provided by the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board

Introduction

The West Coast Working Group, in conjunction with the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, is proposing an integrated marine management plan for Auckland's West Coast. The plan will cover the area from South Kaipara Head to Port Waikato, and will extend into the Manukau Harbour as far as Big Muddy Creek (a line from Laingholm to Mako Point is the proposed cut off).

Before preparing formal proposals we would like to ensure that the views of the community and interested parties are canvassed. This special overview and questionnaire is a chance for you to have your say.

Please complete and post the attached questionnaire (back page) by Wednesday 30th April 2003 to:

Auckland's West Coast Project
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society
PO Box 8138
Symonds Street
AUCKLAND

OR Fax (09) 303 3514

This special overview and questionnaire is also available online at
www.forestandbird.org.nz



FOREST
& BIRD

Special thanks to Dr Steve Dawson, Dr John Walsby, Geoff Moon, Ian Anderson and Ted Scott for the use of their images in this publication.

The Vision

The outcomes of greater marine protection

The vision for the west coast is a healthy coastal environment. The environment should support all plants, animals, their associated habitats and sustainable recreation activities. The integrated management approach will break down the discontinuity between the land and the sea and will instead view these ecosystems as one, interconnected.

By protecting and enhancing the natural values of this coast, human related values will also benefit, creating a 'win-win' situation.

Kauwahaia Island - lying just off the coast at O'Neill Beach - is a nesting place for terns and shags



Scope of the Focus Area

The integrated management plan for Auckland's West Coast encompasses three Territorial Councils (Rodney District, Waitakere City and Franklin District), and two Regional Councils (Auckland Regional Council and Environment Waikato).

Territorial councils cover the area above Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) in conjunction with the Regional Councils. Regional Councils cover the marine area from MHWS out to 12 nautical miles. The proposed marine mammal sanctuary may cover a wider area to include the current habitat of Maui's dolphin (formerly known as the North Island Hector's dolphin).



Protection above and below the Mean High Water Springs

The need for a "land to sea" approach

The land bordering the Auckland west coast is under a variety of different ownerships. Pockets of this land are protected as Regional Parks, Scientific Reserve and QEII National Trust reserve land. Some of the land is under private ownership such as the forestry lands leased by Carter Holt Harvey. It is important that in any plan for marine management that we also include the surrounding lands, as land management has a significant effect on our marine environment. However, protection to date has in most places ended above the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).

Scientists believe that over 80% of our indigenous biodiversity is yet to be found in our oceans. In order to protect the west coast a variety of management techniques are required both above and below MHWS. This will help to create a continuum of protection from land to sea.

Auckland's Wild West Coast

A unique marine environment that deserves greater protection

Auckland's west coast marine environment is a very special part of New Zealand. The great diversity in habitats found on this coast are a result of its long geological history. Habitats such as the high coastal cliffs, rocky coast-line, iron sand beaches, dunes, and harbours are the product of these past and continual processes. This variance in habitat is the foundation for the area's equally diverse intertidal and subtidal plants and animals.

The west coast is a different biological province to Auckland's East Coast. Waters are typically three degrees colder and nutrient rich, providing nourishment for an array of marine life. Exposed rocky shores are host to such organisms as green-lipped mussels, anemones, whelks and giant bull kelp. Intertidal areas along the iron sand shores and dune environments are the habitat of a great variety of bird life, some of which are endangered, such as the NZ dotterel and the NZ fairy tern.

Subtidal areas are home to crayfish, numerous fin fish species and a variety of marine mammals, such as whales and seals and the critically endangered Maui's dolphin. Vegetation of the west coast is varied from grasses such as spinifex and nationally rare pingao sedge to the large native pohutukawa.

The area's greatly diverse ecology and landscapes are the reason for an increasing number of tourists, both domestic and international, each year.

The west coast is popular among the public for its productive, recreational, historical, geological and cultural values. The dramatic rock stacks, rich-black iron sand and high-energy surf provide a great contrast to the region's East Coast.



The Process For Protection

Non – statutory stage

The proposed Integrated Marine Management Plan for Auckland’s west coast is currently at this stage. This is when we ask stakeholders and the community what they think of each element of the proposal. The formal application for each of the elements has not been made yet so the feedback we receive will help us move to the next stages. The questionnaire at the end of this document is your chance to have a say on the ideas presented in this overview.

Once the non-statutory consultation and public feedback has been completed and considered, a formal application for each element will be made.

Statutory stage

The statutory process may differ slightly for each element of the integrated marine management plan. However, in general the statutory process for all formal applications will involve public notification and an opportunity for public submissions.

Marine reserves: the formal application is notified publicly and made available for the public to read and consider. Public have 2 months from the time of notification to make a submission on the formal application.

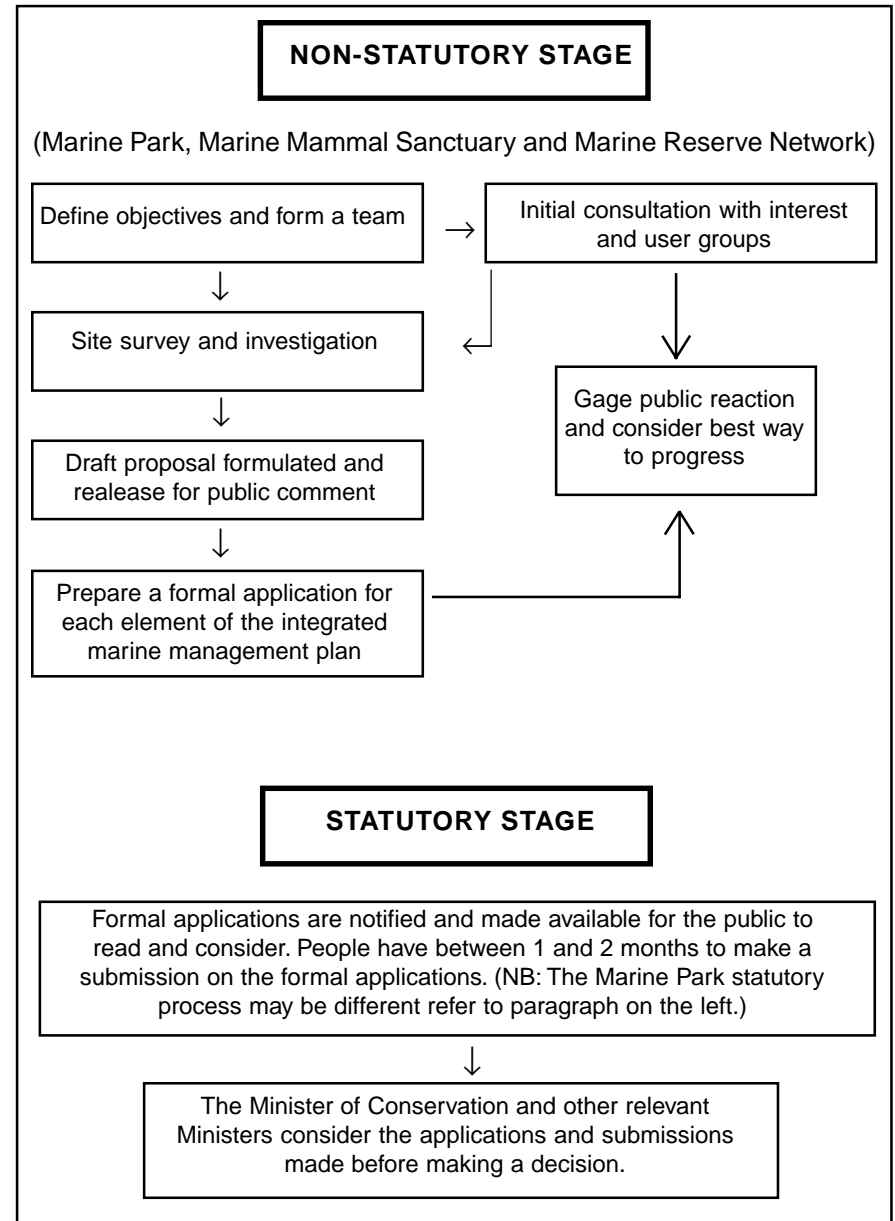
Marine mammal sanctuary: the Minister of Conservation will notify a marine mammal sanctuary application in the Gazette and the public will have 1 month to make submissions.

Marine Park: a marine park requires new legislation to be established and may be progressed through a different statutory process. An opportunity for public submissions would still be allowed for.

Maori fishery management tools and conservation areas: formal applications will be publicly notified and public submissions would be called for. The Minister of Conservation and other relevant Ministers would consider the formal applications and submissions that have been made when making their decision.

Each element of the plan will be progressed separately and at different rates depending upon the legislative process and obligations.

Process Graph



Why Look West?

Auckland's West Coast has been chosen for a number of reasons

- The world's smallest and rarest dolphin is only found off this coast. Maui's Dolphin has been recognised as a separate subspecies from other Hector's Dolphin populations in New Zealand. It is believed that this special population off Auckland's west coast is made up of less than 100 individuals, which means that it is in a critical state. A marine mammal sanctuary would give greater status to Maui's dolphin and help to further protect it from habitat destruction, pollution and harmful fishing methods. The proposed marine mammal sanctuary may cover an area greater than just the Auckland west coast.
- The accessible rocky intertidal shores of the west coast are extremely vulnerable to human harvesters stripping the rock platforms for food and bait. This may become worse with an increase in population and an



enlarged multicultural sector within Auckland. Greater marine protection may help to educate visitors and conserve this marine life.

- Opportunities for educational experiences and scientific research will be enhanced with greater marine protection on Auckland's west coast.
- Endangered bird life such as the NZ dotterel and the NZ fairy tern can be found in the dune areas of this coast. Migratory waders from international destinations

such as Siberia and Alaska also travel to this coast seasonally. A petrel colony exists at Bethells and a series of gannet colonies at Muriwai.

- Visitors to the Auckland west coast are increasing from both domestic and international destinations. Located just 40 minutes from New Zealand's largest urban area, Auckland, the west coast is easily accessible. Greater marine protection will help to enhance the west coast as a tourist destination whilst ensuring its sustainability.
- Adjacent land areas to the west coast have been recognised as regional parks and reserves. Greater marine protection will create a continuum from the 'land to the sea', creating a more holistic approach to environmental management.
- The Auckland west coast has rich cultural history. Maori archaeological sites include canoe landing places, pa sites, look outs, burial grounds and spiritual walkways. There are three iwi (Ngati Te Ata, Ngati Whatua and Te Kawerau A Maki) from this coast who have spiritual ties with the ocean and surrounding hinterlands. European culture is also evident along the coast with historical sites including saw mills, cottages and railway tracks.
- Geologically the west coast is unique. Maori Bay has well preserved pillow lava formations millions of years old and regionally significant. As a result of past geological processes, the West Coast coastline and foreshore includes a variety of habitats, such as exposed rocky platforms, high sea cliffs, offshore reefs, boulder beaches, mangrove areas, dune fields, dune lakes and straight iron-sand beaches. Many of these areas are regionally, nationally and internationally significant.
- The west coast is notorious for a long list of historic shipwrecks. In 1863 the Orpheus was wrecked on the Manukau bar on its way through the Manukau Heads. 189 lives were lost making it New Zealand's worst maritime disaster.



Discover the Values of Auckland's West Coast

Recreation

Surf lifesaving, surfing, fishing, swimming, beach walking, picnicking are just some of the popular recreation activities on the Auckland's West coast. There are a number of Surf Life Saving Clubs along the beaches from Muriwai Beach in the north to Karioitahi Beach in the South.

Intertidal and subtidal marine life

The biota of the west coast is rich and diverse. Intertidal organisms such as green-lipped mussels, paua, anemones and whelks can be found. Crayfish, gurnard, trevally, snapper, whales and dolphins are all present offshore.

Fishing

Commercial and recreational fishing are popular on the West coast. Rough seas often make this dangerous and many places inaccessible. Species such as snapper, trevally and gurnard are caught regularly.

Maori culture

There are three iwi along this coast: Ngati Te Ata, Ngati Whatua, and Te Kawerau A Maki. The Maori have many spiritual ties to this coast. Some of the archaeological sites found in the area include canoe landing places, burial sites and spiritual pathways.

Great habitat diversity

The Waitakere Ranges has a rocky coastline, exposed on its west to the Tasman Sea. The coastline consists of a variety of exposed offshore reefs, rock platforms and sheltered crevices. This great diversity in habitat within such a small area has resulted in an equally diverse biota. Habitat on this coast also includes two sandy beach intertidal areas on either side of the Waitakere Ranges (South Kaipara Peninsula and the Awhitu Peninsula).

Fascinating geology

Geologically the Auckland west coast is phenomenal. Dune barriers, pillow lavas, volcanic necks (such as Lion Rock at Piha),

rocky and sandy coastal shores have all been created as a result of geological processes. Many of these landscapes are recognised as regionally, nationally and internationally significant.

Historic shipwrecks

The Auckland west coast has a long history of shipwrecks due to its often heavy seas. In particular the heads of the Manukau and Kaipara Harbours are notorious for such disasters. In 1863 the Orpheus was wrecked on its way in to the Manukau Harbour. 189 lives were lost making it New Zealand's worst maritime disaster.

Maui's dolphin

Maui's dolphin (formerly known as the North Island Hector's dolphin) is critically endangered with less than 100 individuals remaining. The greatest number of sightings for the dolphin is along the Awhitu Peninsula and at the Manukau Harbour Heads.

Birdlife

The South Kaipara Head is an extremely important breeding, roosting and feeding ground for a variety of birds. Threatened species endemic to New Zealand, such as the NZ dotterel and the NZ fairy tern use the dune area to nest and the foreshore to feed. This area is also important internationally as a 'stop-over' for migratory birds coming from as far afield as Alaska and Siberia. Birdlife is also significant on the sandspit at the mouth of the Waikato River where NZ dotterels are also reportedly breeding.

Outstanding productive habitat

Big Muddy Creek inside the Manukau Harbour has an outstanding representative growth of mangrove forest. The intertidal mudflats associated with the mangroves are rich in intertidal organisms.

Rare and endangered plants

Whatipu Sands Scientific Reserve has some of the last naturally growing Pingao sedge plants. These rare native sand-binding plants help to prevent sand from eroding.



Sea anemone



Critically endangered fairy tern



Pillow lava flows

Threats to the Natural Values of Auckland's West Coast

Commercial and recreational fishing methods using set nets and commercial trawling

This is of particular threat to Maui's dolphin. The dolphin has lungs similar to humans and so when caught in a set net may drown if unable to break free. Given the critical state of this dolphin's population (less than 100), fishing related threats need to be reduced to zero to ensure its survival. Six dolphins died in 2001-2002 due to set nets.

Over fishing in our subtidal areas

The mixture of commercial fishing quotas and recreational fishing catches means that a great variety and number of fish species are being taken from the west coast every year. Increases in Auckland's population will mean an increase in recreational fishers. The extinction of any species from our marine environment may have further repercussions throughout the entire ecosystem.

Pollution

The main source of pollution is from poor land management in surrounding lands. Pollution can affect water quality and eventually accumulate enough to destroy some habitats and species. There is growing evidence to suggest that dioxins may affect fertility in Maui's dolphin. These dolphins are at a greater risk to pollution due to their preference for shallow waters. Pollution sources may include sediment run-off, litter on beaches, fertiliser runoff, sewage disposal, etc.

Visitor impacts

These may be numerous and key elements of each of the other threats mentioned here. Increases in people fishing, walking on rock platforms and leaving litter on beaches are just a few of the potential threats if visitor numbers are not carefully monitored and managed.

Intertidal over-harvesting

Shellfish over-harvesting is an increasing problem on many of the intertidal rock platforms on west coast beaches. As

the Auckland population grows and becomes more multicultural, an increasing number and variety of organisms are being stripped from our rock platforms. This may have significant effects throughout the entire marine food chain.

Uncontrolled domestic animals

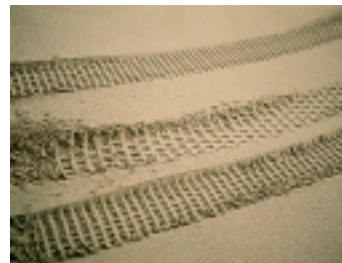
Domestic animals such as cats and dogs that are allowed to roam free may pose a threat to wildlife. Animals such as Little Blue Penguins found on the west coast are often harmed by domestic animals.



Maui's dolphin killed by a setnet



Voluntary ban to reduce impact



Tyre tracks

Marine invaders

Marine pests are a significant threat to native wildlife. Pests compete with the natural wildlife for habitat and food, eventually taking over and eliminating natural species. Currently there are just four definite intertidal marine invaders on Auckland's west coast. This is in contrast to some 66 found on the East Coast. This great difference in numbers is due to the many cargo ships and tourists on leisure boats, which frequent the East Coast. For this reason, among others it is extremely important that we ensure the west coast remains invader free.

Land pests

Introduced pests such as stoats and wild ginger can cause harm to native wildlife. Greater biosecurity practices may help to prevent such pests from establishing on the west coast.

Off-road vehicles

Off-road vehicles can pose significant threats to our wildlife. Sensitive areas above mean high water springs such as Papakanui Spit, where endangered native birdlife is found, should be off limits to such vehicles. Both Muriwai and Karioitahi beaches see considerable beach traffic and any movement of these vehicles into dune areas is of concern.

'Hot Spots'

Areas that may warrant greater protection as marine reserves, rahui, maitaitai and/or taiapure areas.

The areas outlined below have been chosen for their biological values, their ability to represent the range of natural habitats occurring on the Auckland West Coast and their ability to provide educational opportunities.

1 Waionui Inlet and Papakanui Spit

The Inlet is an important feeding area for a variety of birdlife. It is also important as a breeding area for adult fish and a safe haven for juvenile fish. The inlet is extremely productive and adds to the total productivity of the Kaipara Harbour, which is a popular fishing spot. Papakanui Spit (stewardship area) forms the western boundary of Waionui Inlet and is a vitally important breeding and roosting site.

2 Oaia Island and Muriwai Beach

Oaia Island is situated approximately 1.5km off Muriwai Beach. It is a haul out site for the New Zealand fur seal with numbers increasing annually. The island is also home to a series of Australasian Gannet colonies, one of 3 sites within the area. Muriwai beach is a representative stretch of exposed sandy coastline supporting a typical range of bivalves, which live deep below the sand at extreme low water springs. A small part of Muriwai beach (southern end) is a Telecom cable area where fishing and anchoring is prohibited. Offshore from Oaia Island and Muriwai Beach there are a great variety of fish species such as gurnard, trevally, and snapper. Whales, dolphins and other marine mammals are also found off this coast.

3 Maori Bay Coast

Day visits to this part of the Waitakere coastline are popular. Attractions include the gannet colonies, fishing, pillow lava formations, intertidal life and surfing. The area is very accessible and camps and surf lifesaving clubs are close by for educational groups to base themselves.

'Hot Spots' Map



- 1 Waionui Inlet and Papakanui Spit
- 2 Oaia Island and Muriwai Beach
- 3 Maori Bay Coast
- 4 Te Waharoa Coast
- 5 Anawhata Coast
- 6 Piha Coast
- 7 Destruction Gully Coast
- 8 Lawry Point Coast and Big Muddy Creek
- 9 Port Waikato estuary

4 Te Waharoa Coast

This area is characterised by habitats, including rocky shores, offshore reefs and gravel and sand beaches. The great variety in habitats has created an equally diverse intertidal life - the most diverse along the entire Waitakere coastline.

5 Anawhata Coast

Habitats within this area include sandy beach, rocky shores and boulder beaches. Seaweed and sponges are particularly diverse, along with a variety of other intertidal life. The area has not yet been spoiled by subdivision and hence has an aesthetically pleasing landscape.

6 Piha Coast

This is the most popular beach on the Auckland west coast and is very accessible. Consequently, much of the intertidal life has been stripped. Locals have a voluntary ban in place on the taking of shellfish. This would be given legal strength if it were to be made into a marine reserve. There are also a number of camps and surf clubs within this area, making it an excellent base for educational groups.

7 Destruction Gully Coast

Habitat within this area consists mostly of hard volcanic rocky shores and boulder beaches. Nineteen intertidal species are found only in this area. Colourful sea slugs can be found here as well as a diverse range of subtidal animals.

8 Lawry Point Coast and Big Muddy Creek

Habitat in this area consists of intertidal mudflats, sandstone reefs, stable cobbles and mangrove forest. Colourful sea slugs, shelly tube worms and a rich assemblage of sea squirts can be found here. The educational camp at nearby Armour Bay could make an excellent base for studies.

9 Port Waikato estuary

Located at the mouth of the Waikato River, the Port Waikato estuary is an important feeding and breeding area for New Zealand wildlife. The Waikato River is the longest river in New Zealand and is the habitat for a variety of native freshwater fish such as yellow-eyed mullet, black flounder, and

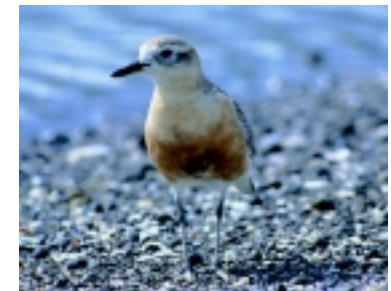
longfinned eels as well as saltwater fish such as Kahawai. Most of New Zealand's native freshwater fish are migratory and need access to the sea or an estuary during their lifecycle. This is one important reason for the protection of this estuary. The estuary is also an important feeding area for a number of wading birds. Nearby at the mouth of the river is a sand island, which is prime breeding habitat for regionally important bird species such as the Caspian Tern and NZ Dotterel.

Note:

Ngati Whatua have stated that they would like to see 'Hot Spots' 1&3 protected by taiapure.



Gannet



New Zealand dotterel

The Integrated Management Plan

The integrated marine management plan for Auckland's West coast is made up of 5 main elements (A - E on following pages), including a marine park, marine mammal sanctuary, marine reserve network, Maori fishery management tools and shoreline and hinterland conservation areas.

A. Marine Park

The integrated concept for the west coast is to establish a marine park with a number of different zones within it. The establishment of a marine park will require special legislation. This may be a timely process and hence other elements making up the park such as a marine reserve network and a marine mammal sanctuary may be progressed separately. Legislation already exists to develop these latter elements. Examples of Marine Parks in New Zealand include the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and the Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Park. International examples include the Greater Barrier Reef Marine Park, Australia and Solitary Islands Marine Park, Australia.

Why a Marine Park?

The West Coast Working Group along with many local residents and community members believe that a Marine Park is needed on the Auckland West coast to better coordinate the management of the marine environment and foreshore. The objective of the marine park would be to protect representative examples of marine bio-diversity, while catering for a range of recreational activities. A Marine Park would establish an advisory/management board made up of a number of representatives from stakeholder and community groups. The responsibilities of this board would include advocacy, education and the co-ordination of management objectives within the marine park area. A marine park advisory board may achieve greater marine management by working alongside local bodies and statutory authorities. In theory the Marine Park may be thought of as a legislative 'tool box' in which all other legislation is used and monitored.

What you can do in a Marine Park

A Marine Park would have a number of different zones within it. Some of

these zones may allow for marine reserves whilst others will allow for recreational fishing. Activities that may be enjoyed in a Marine Park include:

- Coastal walks
- Picnics
- Recreational line fishing and drag netting (primarily for mullet and flounder at Muriwai and Karioitahi beaches) within the general amateur fishing regulations or specific, local restrictions as may apply
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Rock pool observation and nature study activities
- Bird watching
- Boating and sailing
- Underwater diving (with local restrictions)

What you cannot do in a Marine Park

Activities that may be prohibited in the marine park include:

- Commercial fishing
- Recreational set netting
- The discharge of wastes
- Construction of any structure unless specifically approved
- Dredging
- Inappropriate use of a vessel



Little blue penguins

The Integrated Management Plan

B. Marine Mammal Sanctuary

The Department of Conservation administers the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, which provides for the conservation, protection and management of marine mammals. This Act allows for the establishment of marine mammal sanctuaries. Activities can be controlled by specifying what can and cannot be undertaken within the sanctuary and by imposing restrictions. Examples of marine mammal sanctuaries within New Zealand include the Banks Peninsula marine mammal sanctuary (to protect Hector's dolphin) and the Auckland Island's marine mammal sanctuary (to protect NZ sea lion and southern right whale).

Why a Marine Mammal Sanctuary?

The world's smallest and rarest marine dolphin is only found off this coast. Maui's dolphin has been recognised as a separate subspecies from other Hector's dolphin populations in New Zealand. This special population off

Maui's dolphin



Auckland's west coast is made up of less than 100 individuals, which means that it is in a critical state. A marine mammal sanctuary would give greater status to Maui's dolphin and help to further protect it from habitat destruction, pollution and harmful fishing methods. Increasingly, New Zealand fur seals are also being seen off this coast. Fur seals would also benefit from greater protection on this coast.

What you can do in a Marine Mammal Sanctuary

Activities that may be enjoyed in a marine mammal sanctuary include:

- Coastal walks
- Picnics
- Recreational line fishing and drag netting (primarily for mullet and flounder at Muriwai and Karioitahi beaches) within the general amateur fishing regulations or specific local restrictions as may apply.
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Rock pool observation and nature study activities
- Bird watching
- Boating and sailing
- Underwater diving (with restrictions)

What you cannot do in a Marine Mammal Sanctuary

Activities that may be prohibited within a marine mammal sanctuary include:

- Commercial fishing
- The discharge of wastes
- Inappropriate use of vessels



New Zealand fur seal and pup

The Integrated Management Plan

C. Marine Reserve Network

Marine reserves may be set up under the Marine Reserves Act 1971 and are administered by the Department of Conservation. Marine reserves protect areas of the sea, seabed and foreshore in a natural state for the purpose of scientific study. Marine habitats, plants and animals are all protected within marine reserves. These areas are usually completely 'no-take'. Examples of marine reserves in New Zealand include Cape Rodney–Okakari Point Marine Reserve (also known as Goat Island), Long Bay–Okura Marine Reserve and Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

Why a Marine Reserve Network?

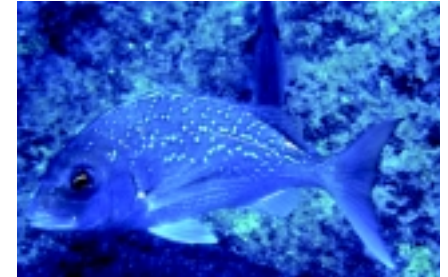
The intertidal organisms of many of the more accessible places on the Auckland west coast have been, and continue to be over-harvested. Subtidally, fish are taken by recreational and commercial fishing. Scientists believe that 80% of New Zealand's bio-diversity remains undiscovered in our oceans. For these reasons it is important that we create 'safe havens' or 'refuges' for our marine life. Studies from around the world of 100 no-take marine reserves have shown an average increase of 91% in the number of fish, 31% increase in the size of fish and 23% increase in the number of species within reserves. Spillover of fish may occur into the surrounding waters of marine reserves. Having a network of 'no-take areas on the Auckland west coast will ensure that a representative collection of marine bio-diversity is protected on this coast and will add to the protection of New Zealand's bio-diversity as a whole. They also allow for scientific research to be undertaken in the marine environment. Currently there are no marine reserves on the Auckland west coast.

What you can do in a Marine Reserve

Marine reserves are open for the public to enjoy and study the marine environment. Activities that do not damage or disturb the marine life are allowed in marine reserves. Some of the activities enjoyed in marine reserves include:

- Boating

- Anchoring
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Snorkelling
- Diving
- Nature studies
- Surfing

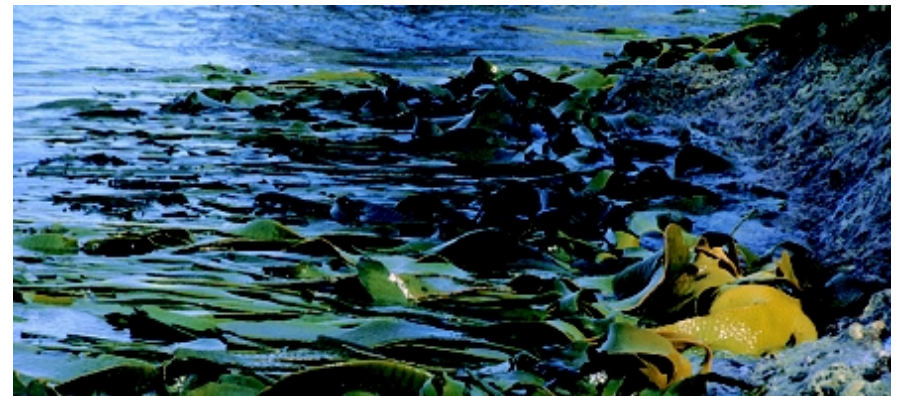


What you cannot do in a Marine Reserve

Generally, activities that damage or disturb the habitat and marine species are not allowed within Marine reserves. Commercial fishing is not allowed and usually recreational fishing and seafood gathering is not allowed either.

NB: The Marine Reserves Act is currently being revised by Parliament.

Bull kelp



The Integrated Management Plan

D. Maori Fishery Management Tools

Taiapure

A taiapure is an estuarine or littoral coastal area, which is traditionally important to iwi or hapu. A taiapure protects these local areas and recognises that local communities have special needs relating to them.

Anyone may apply for a taiapure. The proposal must show that the area is important to the local iwi or hapu for kaimoana (seafood), or spiritual or cultural reasons. The Minister of Fisheries receives taiapure applications and makes his/her decision in consultation with the Minister of Maori Affairs. A special tribunal of the Maori land court hears any submissions or objections. If the Ministers declare that the area should become a taiapure, the Minister of Fisheries forms a management committee of people nominated by and representative of the local Maori community. The committee recommends regulations to the Minister of Fisheries to manage the area. The Ministry works with the committee to administer these regulations.

Commercial and/or recreational fishing may be allowed in a taiapure however, rahui may be applied to stop all or some fishing to allow restoration of these coastal fisheries or because the area is sacred to iwi or hapu.

Maitaitai

A maitaitai reserve is an area of traditional importance to Maori where the tangata whenua are authorised by the Ministry of Fisheries to manage and control the harvest of seafood for non-commercial purposes.

Kaitiaki appointed by the local Maori community can manage this area by passing bylaws.

Bylaws may include species that can be taken, quantity of each species, size limits, methods of catch, area where taken and any other specifications made by the kaitiaki necessary for the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

Controls on non-commercial fishing must apply equally to all people with only one exception. If a reserve is closed for general harvesting, the kaitiaki

may approve the taking of seafood to meet the needs of the marae belonging to tangata whenua of the reserve only.

Rahui

Rahui is a ban on all or some fishing to allow restoration of coastal fisheries or because the area is sacred to iwi or hapu. Rahui may be applied to selected species and may only be initiated by tangata whenua. Rahui may be applied within a taiapure or maitaitai reserve.

The statutory support for a rahui comes from the Fisheries Amendment Act 1998, and is part of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the principal Act), section 186a. This amended section allows for temporary closures of fishing areas or restrictions on fishing methods (maximum of two years after notification in the Gazette). Section 297 and 298 under Part 16 of the Fisheries Act 1996 allows for regulatory closures, which are open ended. Currently the long-term rahui at Karekare beach on Auckland's west coast is supported by a regulatory closure.

E. Shoreline and Hinterland Conservation Areas

The surrounding shoreline and hinterland areas of the West coast require protection as well as the marine area below MHWS if we are to achieve a holistic 'land to sea' approach to environmental management.

Through the integrated management plan for the Auckland west coast private landowners will be invited to consider including part of their land as private conservation areas. Liaison with local and regional authorities to further protect public land will also be undertaken. Conservation areas may be established under the QEII National Trust or other covenant. Local and regional authorities may apply for reserve status for lands also under the Reserves Act 1977. For example the Whatipu sands area has recently been made into a scientific reserve by the Department of Conservation and will be administered by the Auckland Regional Council.

Integrated Management Plan Boundary Options

Boundary Options (1 & 2)

Each boundary option is made up of exactly the same elements as outlined in points A - E of the Intergrated Management Plan. The only difference between the two models is the size of the marine park and the size of the marine mammal sanctuary. The West Coast Working Group and Forest and Bird are seeking your comments on the entire concept of the integrated plan with each of the elements and also your preference for the different boundaries of the marine park and marine mammal sanctuary. See maps below.



Key:
——— Marine Park MHWS boundary
- - - - Marine Park seaward boundary

——— Marine Mammal Sanctuary boundary
● Marine Reserve Network (locations are indications only)

NB: maps not to scale

Option 1

- Marine Park from Papakanui Spit in the North to Port Waikato in the South. Extends into the Manukau Harbour to a line drawn from Laingholm to Mako Point. Extends from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to 4nm seaward.
- Marine Mammal Sanctuary from Papakanui Spit in the North to Port Waikato in the South. Extends from MHWS to 4nm seaward. Extension into Manukau Harbour the same as the Marine Park boundary.

Option 2a (with 4nm marine mammal sanctuary)

- Marine Park from Papakanui Spit in the North to Port Waikato in the South. Extends into the Manukau Harbour to a line drawn from Laingholm to Mako Point. Extends from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to 12nm seaward.
- Marine Mammal Sanctuary from Maunganui Bluff in the North to Pariokariwa Point. Extends from MHWS to 4nm seaward. Extension into Manukau Harbour the same as the Marine Park boundary. This entire area covers the current Ministry of Fisheries commercial set net ban area).

Option 2b (with 12nm marine mammal sanctuary)

- Marine Park from Papakanui Spit in the North to Port Waikato in the South. Extends into the Manukau Harbour to a line drawn from Laingholm to Mako Point. Extends from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to 4nm seaward.
- Marine Mammal Sanctuary from Maunganui Bluff in the North to Pariokariwa Point. Extends from MHWS to 12nm seaward. Extension into Manukau Harbour the same as the Marine Park boundary.

Questionnaire - complete, detach, post - Tell us what you think

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Group/organisation/iwi (if applicable) _____

1. Are you a
- Permanent resident of Auckland's West Coast?
 - Frequent visitor (six or more times a year)?
 - Occasional visitor (less than six times a year)?

2. What marine/coastal activities do you enjoy on Auckland's West Coast?
Please tick all that apply
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish gathering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Surf life saving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach picnics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snorkelling/diving | <input type="checkbox"/> Surfing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

3. Have we correctly identified the values (refer page 6) on the Auckland West Coast in this report?
- Yes
 - No (please give details below)
- _____

4. Have we correctly identified the major threats (refer page 7) to Auckland's West Coast in this report?
- Yes
 - No (please give details below)
- _____

5. Do you agree that the areas we have selected as 'hot spots' (refer page 8) warrant greater protection?
- Yes
 - No (please give details below)
- _____

6. Do you support or oppose the creation of a Marine Park (refer page 10) on Auckland's West Coast?
- Support Oppose Undecided
7. If an Auckland West Coast Marine Park was established, do you support or oppose commercial fishing being prohibited to
- 4nm Support Oppose Undecided
- or
- 12nm Support Oppose Undecided

8. Do you support or oppose the creation of a Marine Mammal Sanctuary (refer page 11) on Auckland's West Coast?
- Support Oppose Undecided

9. Do you support or oppose the creation of a 'no-take' Marine Reserve Network that protects representative habitats and their associated plants and animals (refer page 12) on Auckland's West Coast?
- Support Oppose Undecided
- If supporting, where would you like to see marine reserves created?
- _____

- 10a. Do you support or oppose the use of Maori Fishery Management tools, such as maitaitai, taiapure and rahui (refer page 13) on Auckland's West Coast?
- Support (see below) Oppose Undecided

- 10b. If you support the use of Maori management tools, please state which ones and where
- _____

Cont...

11. Do you support or oppose the creation of conservation areas around the shoreline and hinterland (refer page 13) of Auckland's West Coast?
- Support Oppose Undecided

12. Which of the two boundary options for a marine park and a marine mammal sanctuary (refer page 14) are closest to the model you would like to see created for greater marine protection on Auckland's West Coast?
- Boundary Option 1
 Boundary Option 2a
 Boundary Option 2b
 Other - if you support a model option different to those presented in this document please indicate the area on the map below and add comments/reasons on this map.



FOLD



Auckland's Wild West Coast Project
Forest and Bird - Auckland Office
PO Box 8138
Symonds Street
Auckland

FOLD

Comments

If you require more room for comments please attach extra pages, thank you.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete, detach and post this questionnaire. Please fold with the address outwards, tape or staple to close and mail to Forest and Bird by 30 April 2003.