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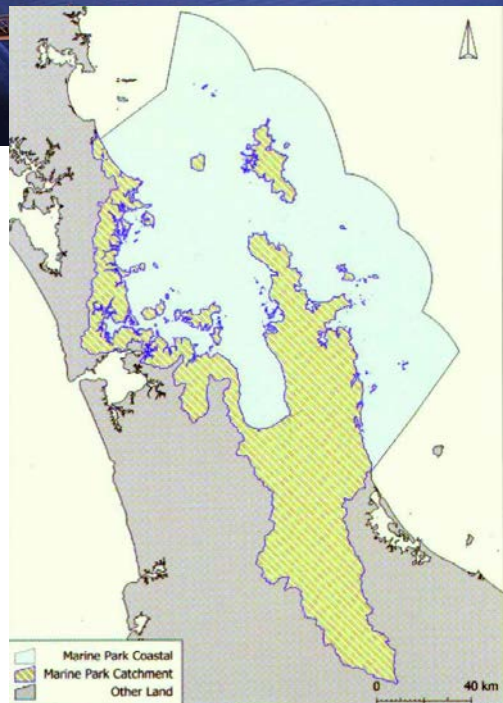
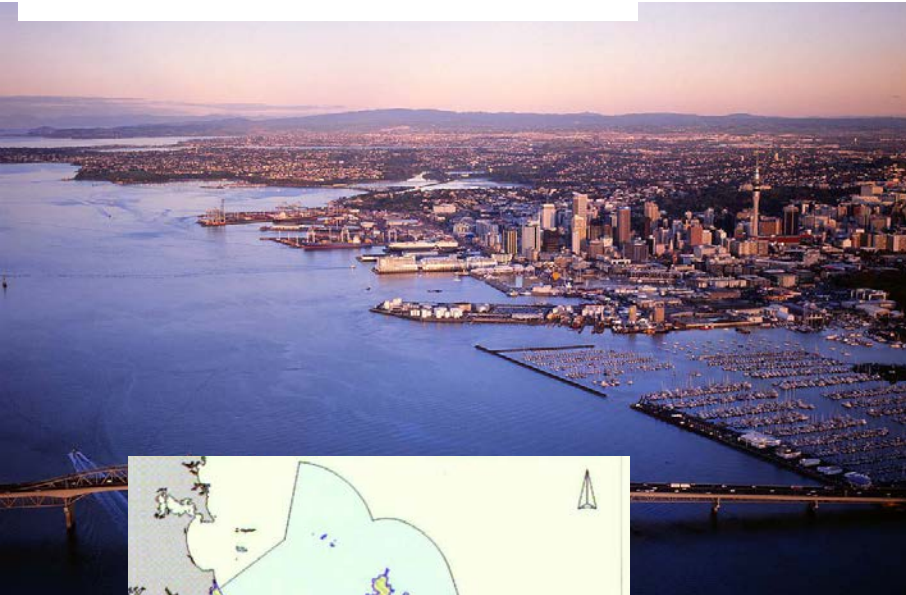
Workshop 3.3 : “Effective and equitable governance of the seascape”

17th Nov. 2014; 8.30 - 12:15 m

Seachange: Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

Raewyn Peart, Policy Director, Environmental Defence Society, NZ

The issue: Hauraki Gulf



- **Highly productive**, shallow sea, numerous islands - 13,900 km² out to 12 nm;
- **Biodiverse**, 20% of world’s seabird species sighted, 19 endemics breed there, 0.3% in marine reserves
- **Heavily utilised** for fishing, shipping, marine farming and recreation
- **Catchment** contains fast growing Auckland urban area, extensive forestry and intensive dairy farming
- **SOE Report 2011** noted the “*incredible transformation the Gulf has undergone over two human lifespans*” and found “*ongoing environmental degradation*”
- Current **fragmented governance** framework had failed to address the situation
- A **stakeholder-led collaborative**, and **co-governance**, process established in late 2013 to develop a MSP due late 2015



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The key question/challenges

How to devise a marine spatial planning process that would:

- Embrace co-governance with mana whenua (around 27 Māori tribes/sub-tribes)
- Actively engage all sectors who were part of the problem (and therefore part of the solution)
- Overcome power imbalances which have made it difficult to address environmental issues
- Provide an effective voice for members of the public
- Overcome the lack of political will to act
- Achieve a step change from ongoing environmental degradation to restoration and increased system health





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Lessons learnt



- **Politicians and bureaucrats will give up control** if pushed (after all they had failed to date)
- **Collaboration does work** but very time consuming and resource intensive
- Important to **get all sectors round the table** and acknowledge all contributors to environmental problems
- **All voices have equal weight** so helps overcome power imbalances
- **Direct access to scientists** important (so info no filtered)
- Need to get **out into the field** and see what is actually happening (also promotes bonding and trust)
- Expectation that **social capital** built up can assist with implementation (the stage where many plans in NZ fail)

Key recommendations



- **Fully integrated MSP** (catchment to the sea; all sectors) be more widely applied as a management tool for marine areas
- A **broad focus** be adopted - eg on increasing ecological health, diversity and productivity of marine area - as it is more inclusive (rather than MPAs or sectors *per se*)
- Focus plans on **identifying opportunities** for environmental/social/economic gains in a virtuous circle (eg aquaculture) as well as **no-go areas**
- **Collaborative processes** (carefully designed) be used to:
 - ✓ Develop marine spatial plans
 - ✓ Share power between those with a stake in a marine area
 - ✓ Upskill community members
 - ✓ Build social capital to underpin ongoing governance