



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



Fairy tern (Tara iti)

Juvenile kahawai

Blue maomao (Maomao)

Lamprey (Piharau)

Riley Hathaway

Grey mullet (Aua)

Short-finned eel (Tuna)

Flapjack (Rimurimu)

Short-tailed stingray (Whai)

Green-lipped mussel (Kōtahi)

Cushion star (Rimurimu repe)

Mud snail

Moon jellyfish (Petipeti)

Trevally (Araara)

Paddle kelp (Rimurimu)

Zigzag weed

Coralline algae (Rimu māwhero)

Olive beadlet anemone (Hūmenga kowhai)

Spawning snapper

Snapper (Tamure)

John dory (Kuparu)

Black angelfish

Crayfish (Keura)

Little blue penguin (Korora)

Steve Hathaway

Black petrel (Taiko)

Striped marlin (Takeketonga)

Kōwhiri jellyfish (Yepetepe)

Fur seal (Kekeno)

Manta ray

Hapuku

Sponge garden

Octopus (Wheke)

Australasian gannet (Tākupu)

Schooling fish work-up

Common dolphin (Aihe)

Hammerhead shark (Mangopare)

Orca (Maki / Kākahi)

Bryde's whale (Pakake)

Long-finned boarfish

Green turtle (Hōtu)

Black coral

RMS Niagara

Arrow squid (Wheke)

Sand star (Patangaroa)

Sea pens

Snake eel

DIVE INTO THE GULF

Rukua te moana

Around the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tikapa Moana / Te Moana-nui-a-Toi – from local estuaries to remote islands – there is a fascinating world to discover. If you are a diver, a Young Ocean Explorer, or curious reader there is more to learn and do.



DISCOVER WHAT'S IN YOUR BIG WET BACKYARD

Download the app to bring the poster to life. Go to www.yoe.nz to find our free Young Ocean Explorers app now.

FAIRY TERN

The New Zealand fairy tern is our rarest endemic bird. Only 10 breeding pairs among 40 individuals remain on beaches just north of Auckland. Modification of habitat, predators and disturbance at breeding sites have pushed them to the edge. The Department of Conservation works with non-government organisations and community volunteers to improve the outlook for these birds.

FILTER FEEDING

Filter feeding animals serve as the cleaners of the Gulf. A single mussel can filter up to 350 litres of seawater daily. Grey mullet have special throats and extra-long intestines to filter fine muds from the algae and seaweed fly maggots they like to feed on. Keeping the Gulf free of sediments that wash off land is a big challenge. Groups like the Piako Catchment Forum encourage riverside planting and Revive our Gulf is re-establishing mussel reefs.

SPAWNING

Adult snapper spawn during summer in the productive waters of the Gulf. Once the sea turned red with snapper eggs and sperm, but today fish numbers in the Gulf are a fifth of what they once were. Fertilised eggs from large snapper in marine reserves are important in repopulating surrounding areas and building fish stocks. Initiatives to double the snapper stock from the current level, to protect nursery areas and create more marine reserves are great investments for the future.

UNDERWATER FLIGHT

There are 27 species of seabirds that breed around the Gulf and some can fly underwater. Gannets hit the water at nearly 90 km per hour and have 'airbag' extensions to cushion their bodies from the blow. Taiko (black petrel) can dive up to 35 metres, sometimes after baited hooks. Southern Seabird Solutions Trust is helping fishers be seabird smart and the Northern NZ Seabird Trust is building knowledge about seabird behaviour to aid conservation.

FOOD WEBS

Sharks, whales, dolphins, rays and seabirds rely on a highly productive food web that begins with tiny phytoplankton. Zooplankton also thrive in the Gulf's soupy waters, feeding aggregations of small fish like pilchards which generate spectacular work-ups. Too many nutrients can cause problems and nitrogen generated by intensive agriculture or fish farming needs to be carefully monitored and managed.

SHIPWRECKS

The RMS Niagara is one of many shipwrecks in the Gulf, sunk by a German mine near the Mokohinau islands in 1940. Most of its gold bullion has been recovered but faint oil slicks suggest its hull could still contain bunker fuel, potentially four times the amount spilled by the MV Rena. Operating in the Gulf demands great care and the consequences of our actions may leave long legacies and require remediation.

Go deeper into the Hauraki Gulf

Join a dive club
Check out the new State of our Gulf report at gulfgulfjournal.org.nz/state-of-the-gulf-2017/
Explore the videos, quizzes and teaching tools at youngoceanexplorers.com
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