

Summary of feedback on the Consultative Draft of the Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan June to August 2022

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Consultative Draft of the Proposed
Waikato Regional Coastal Plan
June to August 2022**

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Document #:
Report on engagement feedback received on the Regional Coastal Plan review – Phase 3

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	What we did - engagement methods and process	2
2.1	Interactive maps and surveys	2
2.2	Workshops, hui and webinars.....	3
2.3	Circulation of consultative draft	3
3	What we've heard – outcomes from engagement	4
3.1	Responses by email.....	4
3.2	Interactive map responses.....	6
3.3	Survey responses	7
3.3.1	Survey 1 – Options for protecting marine biodiversity.....	7
3.3.2	Survey 2 – Indigenous Biodiversity	8
3.3.3	Survey 3 – Historic Heritage and Sites of Significance	8
3.3.4	Survey 4 - Natural Character and Seascapes	9
3.3.5	Survey 5 - Aquaculture.....	9
3.3.6	Iwi feedback	9
4	What happens next?	10
	Attachment A – Summary of key stakeholder feedback	11
	Attachment B - Survey Response Results	13
	Attachment C – Proposed Policies ECO-P10 and ECO-M1.....	28

1 Introduction

Waikato Regional Council is reviewing its operative Regional Coastal Plan (RCP) which sets out the regulatory framework for the sustainable management of coastal resources and activities within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA). Clause 3 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides for a range of consultation and engagement activities during the preparation of a proposed plan.

To help refine the direction of the updated coastal plan ahead of the formal public submission process the council sought targeted feedback from iwi and communities from June to August 2022, including coastal residents and users, statutory bodies, commercial and community interest groups. This latest phase of engagement, known as Phase 3, builds on two previous phases (completed from late 2019 through to June 2021) which sought feedback from iwi, community and a range of stakeholders on key issues within the CMA and high-level policy directions¹.

During Phase 3, feedback was sought on:

- Key plan topic areas, including aquaculture; historic heritage; sites of significance; seascapes/natural character, and marine protected areas.
- The plan provisions and areas of the plan that stakeholders may be concerned about or support.
- The changes stakeholders would like to see in the plan, and reasons for changes sought.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received which will be taken on board to further inform the development of an updated coastal plan.

The updated coastal plan will:

- Provide the policy and rule framework under the RMA for the management of certain activities within the CMA which extends from the mean high-water spring out to 12 nautical miles.
- Topics proposed to be covered by the plan include:
 - Integrated Management
 - Discharges to air
 - Aquaculture
 - Biosecurity
 - Disturbances and deposition
 - Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity
 - Energy and infrastructure
 - Historic heritage
 - Moorings

¹ Refer Report on engagement feedback received on the Regional Coastal Plan review – Phase 1 and 2 September 2021 Document #:

- Natural character
- Natural features and landscapes
- Natural hazards
- Noise and vibration
- Public access and recreation
- Ngā whenua tapu o ngā Māori - Sites and areas of significance to Māori
- Surf breaks
- Structures and occupation of space
- Water discharges
- Water quality
- Water - take, use, dam and divert

2 What we did - engagement methods and process

Feedback was sought and received from stakeholders, including identified commercial and community interest groups in a number of different ways including:

- Through an online digital platform which included interactive maps and surveys on specific areas of the coastal plan.
- Stakeholder webinars, hui and workshops.
- Written feedback via email.

To support the above and enable geographic-based conversations with stakeholders about coastal issues/gaps in the coastal plan, collateral resources including spatial information were made available on the council website.

2.1 Interactive maps and surveys

An online digital platform was used to support more accessible means of providing feedback throughout the engagement period. This platform proved to be an effective tool for capturing and reporting stakeholder feedback and included two key elements:

- An interactive map allowing respondents to place and/or pin information spatially
- A series of short surveys on key plan topics

The interactive map provided support for carrying out geographic-based discussions and maintaining transparency about the proposed direction of the plan with stakeholders.

Five topic area surveys were developed as part of the digital platform seeking community views on:

- Options for protecting marine biodiversity - including potential options for further protecting areas of the CMA from adverse effects of disturbance activities, including fishing. This survey was supported by the release of a discussion document providing further detail on potential options.
- Natural character and seascapes (landscapes) - the spatial extent of natural character and seascapes within the coastal plan and the views of these areas as important.

- Historic heritage and sites of significance - proposed sites and areas of significance and the protections proposed.
- Indigenous biodiversity - the management of high value biodiversity sites within the coastal plan.
- Aquaculture - proposed aquaculture areas, management of effects and other potentially suitable areas for aquaculture.

2.2 Workshops, hui and webinars

A series of stakeholder workshops and hui were undertaken to facilitate further stakeholder input on coastal issues and identify gaps in the coastal plan. These were arranged on an as requested basis following an initial offering to all stakeholders. Where necessary, webinars were also held upon the request of stakeholders to explore issues in detail (for example aquaculture or marine biodiversity protection) and provide more detailed information on the coastal plan.

Iwi engagement

All registered iwi authorities were provided with a copy of the consultative draft of the coastal plan along with access to the plan surveys and interactive maps. Face-to-face engagement was undertaken with iwi authorities, mana whenua and hapū where requested.

Engagement occurred with the following iwi/manua whenua:

- Maniapoto
- Ngāti Hei
- Ngāti Huarere
- Hauraki Māori Trust Board
- Waikato-Tainui

In addition to face-to-face engagement, feedback from marae/manua whenua representatives was also provided through the online platform map and surveys.

2.3 Circulation of consultative draft

A consultative draft of the coastal plan was circulated directly by email to identified stakeholders. This included providing a copy of the consultative draft to all agencies listed under Clause 3 of the RMA. Stakeholders that received a copy included the Department of Conservation (DOC), Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry for the Environment (MFE), iwi authorities, relevant local authorities (including all district councils in the Waikato region) and neighbouring regional councils.

A link to the consultative draft was also sent by email to key interest/advocacy groups and individuals/groups held on council databases that had previously registered an interest in the coastal plan review. This email included a link to the online platform (Engagement HQ) that included five short surveys and an interactive map, as well as a detailed survey on Marine Protected Area options.

3 What we've heard – outcomes from engagement

3.1 Responses by email

Council received very detailed feedback/comments from the stakeholders listed in Table 1 on the consultative draft. Feedback was provided by email and often included direct comments on the consultative draft plan provisions. A high-level summary of this feedback is contained in Attachment A to this report.

Table 1 Draft Waikato Regional Coastal Plan – List of stakeholders providing feedback.

Statutory bodies
Auckland Council
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Fisheries New Zealand / MPI
Hauraki Gulf Forum
Heritage New Zealand <i>Pouhere Taonga</i>
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Te Ohu Kaimoana
Thames-Coromandel District Council
Waka Kotahi
Commercial Interests
Coromandel Marine Farmers Association/Aquaculture NZ
Coromandel Oceans
Fisheries Inshore New Zealand
Sandford Limited
Rock Lobster Management Company Ltd
Pāua Industry Council and NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council
Whitianga and Coromandel Peninsula Commercial Fishermen's Association
Community Interests
Aquatic Environmental Sciences Ltd
Ash McCrone
Carl Muir – Provider Retreats and Adventures
Coromandel Oceans Protection
Coromandel Ocean Futures
Craig Mulholland
Environmental Law Initiative
Gay Rawiri
Good Fishing
Forest and Bird Mercury Bay Branch
Horse Access Advocates Waikato Incorporated (HAAWI)
J Forrest

John Spencer
Kaiaua Boating Club
Katina Conomos – The Noises Charitable Trust
Louis Cooper
Meg Graeme
Mussel Reef Restoration Trust
New Zealand Sports Fishing Council (NZSFC) and regional fishing clubs
NZ Angling and Casting Association
Raglan Community Board
Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Taranaki/Waikato
The New Plymouth Surf Casting Club
Theodora Ward
Shaun Lee
Shirley Waterhouse
Whangamata Ocean Sports Club
Whitianga and Coromandel Peninsula Commercial Fishermans Association
Legasea

In addition to the above, and in response to the circulation of the consultative draft, the Healthy Environments inbox received approximately 2890 email responses from across the community.

This high number of responses was generated mostly (i.e. 2876 of the 2890 responses) through a “pro forma submission” developed and promoted by Legasea. The Legasea generated feedback was entirely focused on the proposed options for protecting marine biodiversity.

Key themes emerging from pro forma responses included:

- Most responses (2533) opposed the imposition of any further restrictions on fishing within the CMA and were opposed to all suggested policy options related to protecting marine biodiversity.
- All responses requested continued/improved use of the Fisheries Act to manage fishing sustainably.
- Some responses (343) indicated support for proposed policy ECO-P10 within the coastal plan, however this may have been in error as these responses also opposed further restrictions in every other way.

The pro forma responses also contained individual comments covering a wide range of issues in relation to the potential identification of areas for marine biodiversity protection. These are as follows:

- Concerns about impact on businesses and tourism
- Ensuring that the status quo is maintained – leaving fisheries management to central government
- Lowering recreational limits, stopping fishing during spawning
- Concerns with commercial fishing practices and need for tighter constraints

- Concerns about dredging (particularly scallops), net fishing and bycatch from commercial trawling
- Support for the stronger management of discrete areas to improve fish stocks
- Need for more research and consultation before making reserves
- Banning additional mussel farms
- Restrictions may push pressure to other areas

3.2 Interactive map responses

An interactive map was provided as part of the online platform to enable respondents to explore and 'pin' areas of historical, cultural, economic and biodiversity value and provide comments against these (Figure 1). The map included the spatial extent of proposed coastal plan layers related to sites of significance to Māori, indigenous biodiversity, and aquaculture.

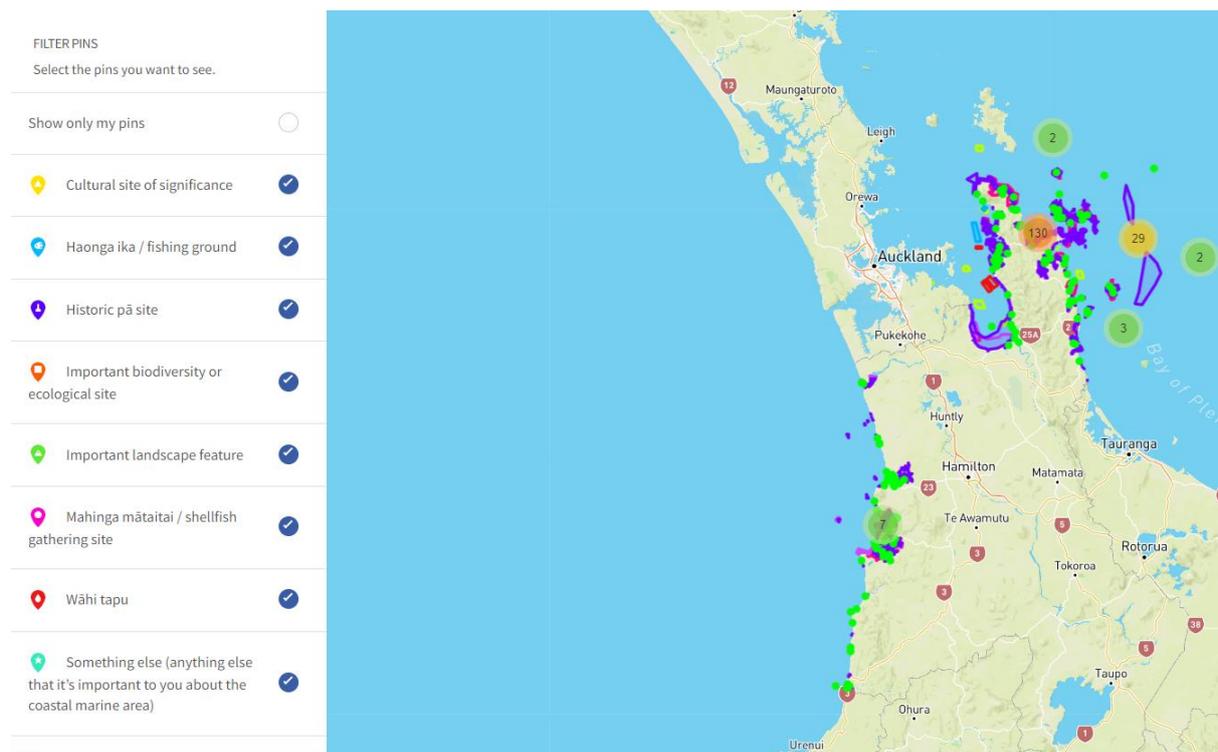


Figure 1: Screenshot of interactive map – September 2022

The key comments received through this platform is summarised by coast in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of interactive responses as of 8 September 2022

Geographic area	Key comment areas
East Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navigation safety concerns around proposed/existing aquaculture ● Retain safe, accessible, anchorages ● Retain/do not restrict access to recreational fishing areas ● Ban/restrict/limit commercial fishing practices (bottom trawling/dredging) ● Marine reserves making overfishing worse ● Identification of areas of significant food gathering ● Retain/formalise tractor parking area at Little Bay ● Location of important ecology/biodiversity ● Manage land use effects that are degrading harbours/estuaries ● Requests for clarification/further information on map
West Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identification of a number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ cultural sites of significance, wāhi tapu and historic pā sites ○ haonga ika / fishing grounds and important mahinga kai sites ● Important biodiversity or ecological site at the mouth of Kiritehere Stream ● Dunes at Kiritehere beach are an important landscape feature ● Manage effects from land use practices/sewage disposal ● Manage pest geese ● Protection of marine biodiversity by restricting trawling out to 4 nautical miles from the coastline

3.3 Survey responses

The following section provides a summary of the key responses to the five online surveys. Attachment B provides more detail on the quantitative results in relation to each of the survey questions.

3.3.1 Survey 1 – Options for protecting marine biodiversity

At the request of Councillors, feedback was sought on whether the coastal plan should go further to protect biodiversity values of the CMA with rules requiring the avoidance of activities that disturb the foreshore and seabed, particularly in areas identified as having significant biodiversity value.

This process involved a community survey on options for protecting marine biodiversity and release of a discussion document on the council’s website. This document detailed potential options in relation to support for a policy (ECO-P10) to avoid activities that disturb vulnerable ecologically significant areas and potential options to implement the policy including:

Option 1: Leaving to other legislation (no new rules).

Option 2: Prohibiting the disturbance of the seabed or foreshore in specifically identified and mapped areas.

Document #:

Report on engagement feedback received on the Regional Coastal Plan review – Phase 3

Option 3: Prohibiting the taking of all plants and animals in specifically identified and mapped areas.

Option 4: Allowing some activities in specifically identified and mapped areas.

The document included discussion on potential for the protection of an area around the Mercury Islands (near Whitianga on the Coromandel Peninsula), which could include Kawhitu (Stanley Island), Motuwi (Double Island) and Whakau (Red Mercury).

The online survey on the options for protecting marine biodiversity was completed by 263 participants. Key themes emerging from those who provided written feedback included:

- A number of responses supported Option 1: Leaving to other legislation (no new rules).
- A number of responses supported a mix of the proposed options.
- Some stakeholders recommended alternative methods for protecting areas.
- Some support for the Waikato CMA being subject to protection for marine biodiversity purposes.
- Some areas within the CMA recommended for protection.

In relation to iwi feedback on options for protecting marine biodiversity, both Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Huarere expressed concerns with imposition of additional restrictions on kai harvesting/gathering, whilst recognising the need to manage resources sustainably. Traditional practices such as rāhui were preferred as a tool to protect/manage areas.

3.3.2 Survey 2 – Indigenous Biodiversity

This survey was completed by 42 participants. Key feedback received included:

- A number of responses supported the proposed provisions. In particular ECO-P10 and ECO-M1 (refer Attachment 3), though there were a small number of stakeholders that also opposed these provisions.
- Some support for identifying SIBA-A sites, some raised concerns about the widespread application of SIBA-B sites and the implications of this for resource users.
- A small number of stakeholders requested more species are included in the identification of SIBA sites.
- Conflicting support for including Mercury Group as a SIBA-A site.
- Some support for protecting mangroves.
- Some stakeholders noted their lack of trust in national legislation being able to protect indigenous biodiversity and request the coastal plan addresses the gaps in the Fisheries Act and Seachange.

3.3.3 Survey 3 – Historic Heritage and Sites of Significance

This survey was completed by 9 participants. Key feedback received included:

- Ensuring for public access to sites of significance.
- Restricting commercial activity in relation to important sites.
- Balancing the economic cost of protection with cultural significance.

Document #:

Report on engagement feedback received on the Regional Coastal Plan review – Phase 3

- Current protection framework being sufficient.
- Ensuring correct spelling and names of historical areas within the coastal plan.

3.3.4 Survey 4 - Natural Character and Seascapes

This survey was completed by 12 participants. Key feedback received included:

- Restricting commercial activity with free access for public recreational activity within the CMA.
- Ensuring the protection of areas for ecological reasons and future generations.
- Protecting high value seascapes.
- Requests for clarification on 'significant status', including the need for more community involvement.
- No restricting mangrove management.
- More protection for the coast from land runoff required, particularly forestry.

3.3.5 Survey 5 - Aquaculture

This survey was completed by 14 participants. Key feedback received included:

- Some noted concerns about the effects of aquaculture and the broad distribution of aquaculture areas.
- High level of support for aligning with Seachange recommendations and including Seachange Sites.
- Some concerns about potential financial contributions.
- A few stakeholders commented on the uncertainty around consenting of existing farms and requested that this be a controlled activity.
- A small number of stakeholders mentioned their uncertainty around the integration with other chapters. Integration with high value biodiversity areas was specifically highlighted
- Some opposition to prohibition of aquaculture within high value areas – instead apply an effects-based approach.
- Some comments on the lack of flexibility in the provisions to allow for adaptation, improvements and change.
- Some requests for existing aquaculture farms to be included in the identification of high value areas.
- Some stakeholders commented that the provisions do not adequately provide for new spat/nursery sites.

3.3.6 Iwi feedback

All relevant iwi authorities were provided with a copy of the consultative draft and access to the online surveys and interactive map.

Key issues raised through these engagement channels included:

- Ensuring that the coastal plan does not impinge on Treaty of Waitangi settlement agreements, customary marine title and/or statutory acknowledgements that may be live/pending.

- Ensuring that harbours/estuaries are identified as culturally significant, balancing protection with need to utilise resources.
- Do not unnecessarily restrict customary activities and mahinga kai gathering.
- Identify specific sites of cultural importance and ensure these are protected, including consultation with mana whenua.
- Support for development of aquaculture, including increasing diversity of potential aquaculture products. Ensuring that adverse effects of aquaculture are properly identified and managed.
- Leave quota/fisheries management to Crown and respective treaty settlements.
- Improve management of sedimentation and restrict further spread of mangroves in harbour areas.
- Improve management of discharges into harbours.
- Improve opportunities for mana whenua involvement in resource consent applications.
- Provide flexibility to support traditional and emerging practices.
- Rāhui can be used outside of marine protected areas type frameworks.
- Difficulty navigating multiple policy/legal layers in the coastal marine area, concerns about marine space becoming like whenua in terms of multiple zoning.
- Need for further collaboration, including co-governance arrangements.
- Need to support spatial planning within the marine context to better understand, sustain and utilise resources.

4 What happens next?

The council will take on board the feedback received and will continue to work with key stakeholders on the development of an updated coastal plan.

The feedback provided has been significant and provides further direction on refining the coastal plan to ensure it is ready for notification in 2023. Thanks to all that took the time and effort to provide feedback.

Attachment A – Summary of key stakeholder feedback

Below is a summary of the feedback received from key stakeholders on the Consultative Draft Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.

Topic	Key matters raised
Indigenous Biodiversity Protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A number of responses supported the proposed provisions to support biodiversity, in particular policies ECO-P10 and ECO-M1, although there were a small number of stakeholders that also opposed these provisions. ● Some stakeholders supported identifying SIBA-A sites, however some raised concerns about the widespread application of SIBA-B sites and the implications of this for resource users. ● A small number of stakeholders requested the inclusion of more species in the identification of SIBA sites ● There were a range of views both for and against including Mercury Island Group as a SIBA-A site ● Some stakeholders supported protecting mangroves ● Some stakeholders noted their lack of trust in national legislation/policy processes being able to adequately protect indigenous biodiversity and requested that the Plan enable Seachange by addressing gaps in the Fisheries Act
Options for protecting biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A number of responses supported option 1: Leaving to other legislation (no new rules). ● A number of responses supported a mix of the proposed options ● Some stakeholders recommended alternative methods for protecting areas ● Some support for 30% marine protected areas ● Some areas were recommended for identification and protection
Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some noted concerns about the effects of aquaculture and the broad distribution of aquaculture areas ● There was a high level of support for aligning with Seachange recommendations and including Seachange aquaculture sites ● Some concerns about potential financial contributions associated with establishment and operation of new aquaculture sites ● A few stakeholders commented on the uncertainty around consenting of existing farms and requested that this be a controlled activity ● A small number of stakeholders mentioned their concerns about the integration of the aquaculture provisions with other

	<p>chapters. Ensuring integration with high value biodiversity management provisions was specifically highlighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was some opposition to prohibition of aquaculture within high value areas and that an effects based approach should be applied ● Some comments on the lack of flexibility in the provisions to allow for adaptation, technological improvements, and change ● There were some requests for existing aquaculture farms to be included in the identification of high value areas ● Some stakeholders commented that the provisions/zones not adequately providing for new spat/nursery sites
Plan Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was general support for the integrated management and water quality provisions ● A number of stakeholders commented that the water quality provisions needed to also address landuse effects/sedimentation within harbours. ● Some stakeholders wanted to ensure consistency between the Regional Plan and Coastal Plan. ● A few stakeholders commented that the draft Coastal Plan is not adequately aligning with the higher order policy/legislation and that this needs to be resolved.

Attachment B - Survey Response Results

Aquaculture Responses

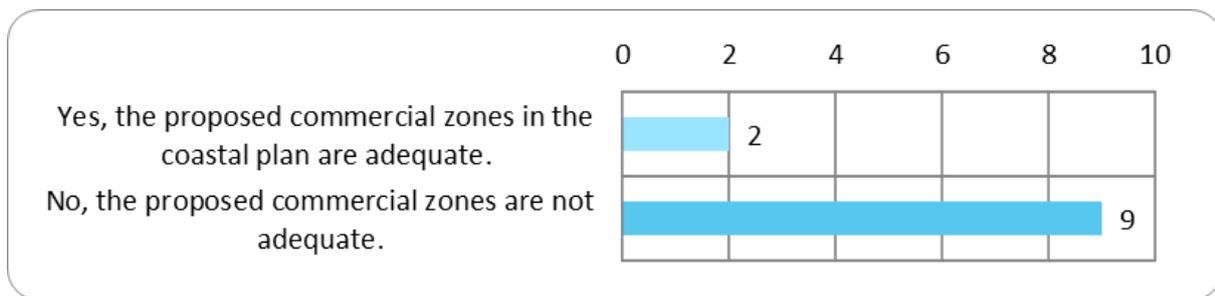
A total of 14 participants responded to questions regarding aquaculture. Below is a summary of the results.

Identification of new commercial aquaculture zones

11 participants provided responses on whether the proposed new commercial aquaculture zones are adequate. As shown in the figure below, most respondents voted no.

- Of the 11 participants, 8 provided an explanation of their responses. These are discussed further below the graph.

Figure 7: The draft coastal plan proposes new commercial aquaculture zones. Are these zones adequate for aquaculture activities in your rohe/area? (n=11)



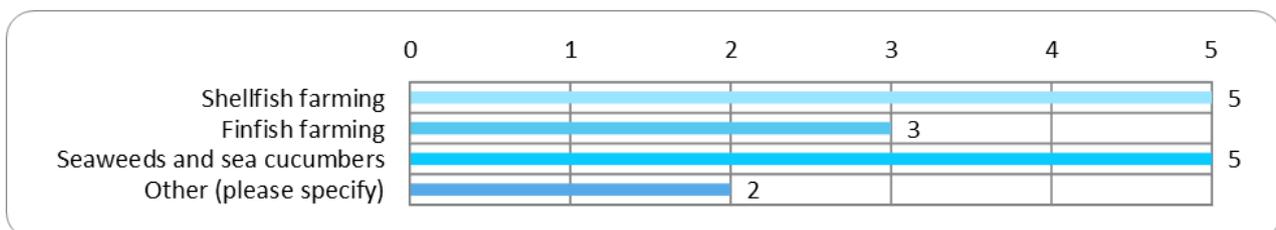
Reasons for the responses are summarised below:

- Not supporting aquaculture due to the negative environmental impacts
- Existing mussel farms already occupy too much space. Further allocation of increasingly rare unoccupied coastal space for spat farms and caged finfish farming is unwarranted.
- Support for aquaculture as a more sustainable fishing industry compared to other industrial and unsustainable fishing methods
- Including aquaculture areas on the west coast

Support for types of aquaculture

The figure below shows responses on the 4 options of aquaculture activities they consider to be suitable within their rohe/area. The two participants that chose 'other', they specified 'none' and 'none of the above'.

Figure 8: What types of aquaculture activity do you think might be suitable within your rohe/area?

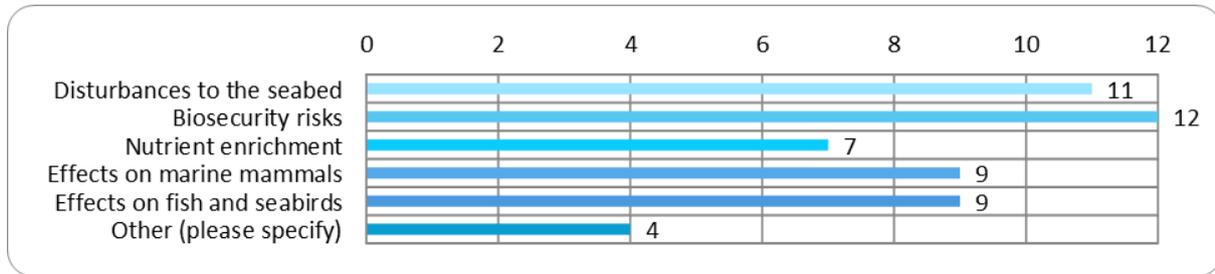


Concerns about the effects of aquaculture activities

Participants were asked to choose 6 options regarding their concerns about the effects of aquaculture activities within their rohe/area. The results are shown below.

- The four participants who voted ‘other’ outlined concerns relating to inappropriate locations, pollution, natural character, public access and navigational safety, coastal inundation, biosecurity and impacts on taonga.

Figure 9: What concerns (if any) do you have about the effects of aquaculture activities within your rohe/area?



Cultural or environmental considerations and aquaculture activities

There were 11 responses to the question ‘what cultural or environmental considerations (if any) do you know of that might affect potential development of aquaculture activities within your rohe/area?’

These comments ranged from:

- opposing aquaculture for environmental reasons
- iwi/hapū involvement
- including economic considerations
- impacts on recreational activity, fishing and seafood gathering
- limited suitable areas for marine farms

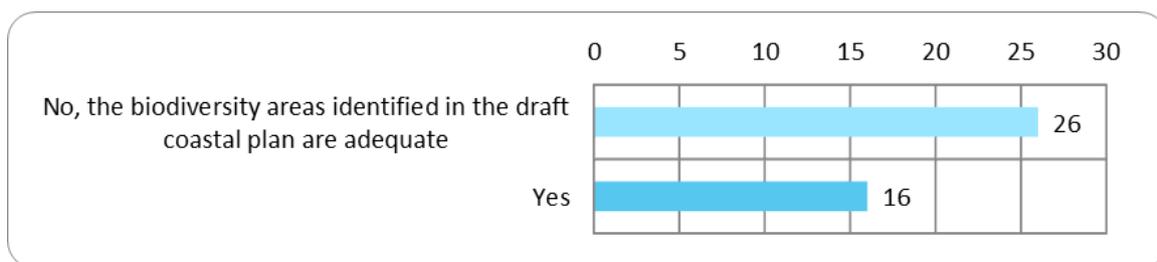
Indigenous Biodiversity Responses

Support for the areas of biodiversity value identified

Most responded 'no,' the biodiversity areas identified in the draft coastal plan are adequate'. 15 other areas of biodiversity value were identified by those who responded 'yes' (see graph below).

- There were also suggestions on finding further information regarding other areas of biodiversity value.
- 23 comments were received outlining the taonga resources missing from the biodiversity areas identified in the draft coastal plan

Figure 1: The draft coastal plan has identified some areas of biodiversity value. Are you aware of any other key areas we may have missed? (n=42)



Values to be protected within areas of biodiversity value

The most common response was 'yes' to protecting biodiversity values of ecosystem health, threatened species, Wāhi tapu, and natural form and character (see graphs below).

- 10 comments were received identifying other values not listed to be protected

Figure 2: Ecosystem health (water quality, habitat, marine life, ecological processes) (n=42)

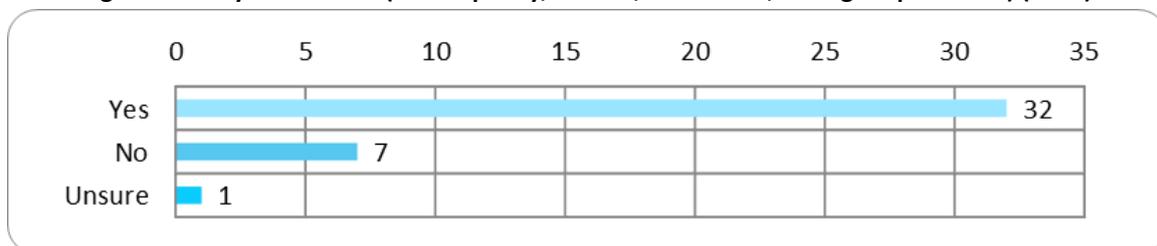


Figure 3: Threatened species (n=40)

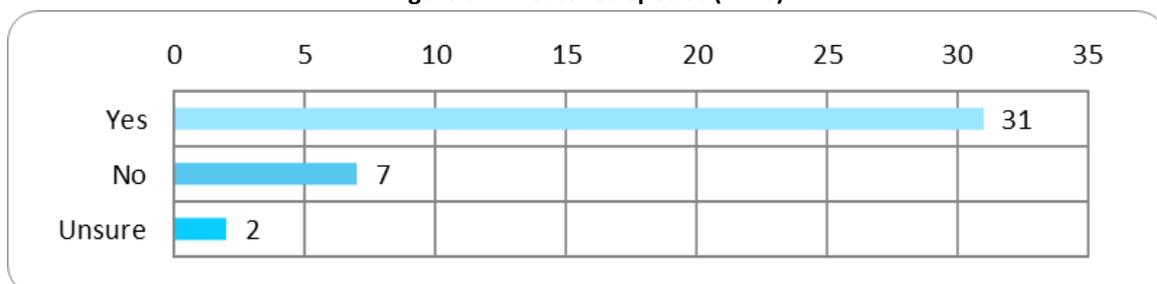


Figure 4: Wāhi tapu (n=40)

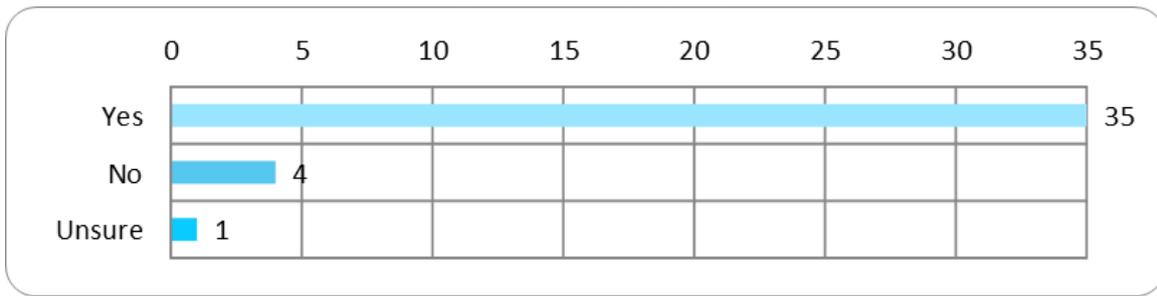
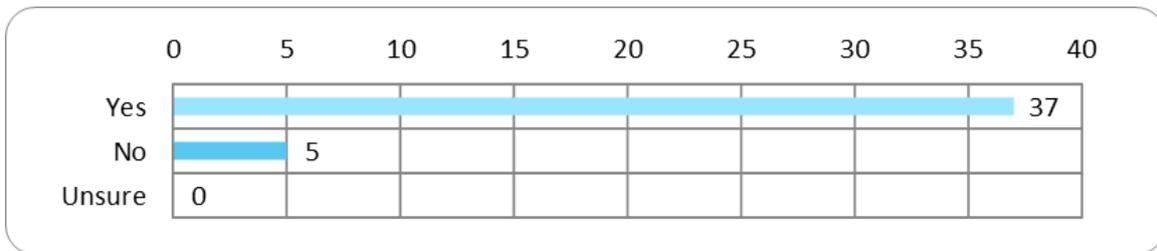


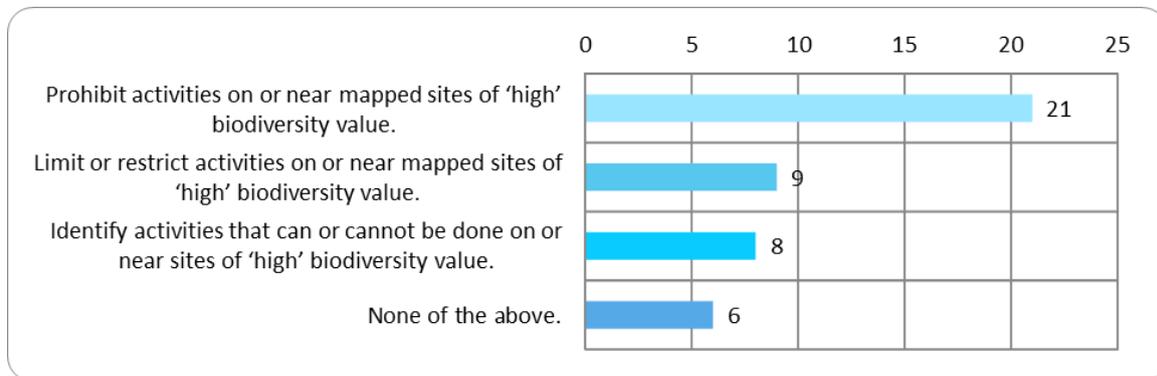
Figure 5: Natural form and character (n=40)



Options for balancing cultural, recreational and commercial activities

Respondents were provided a list of four options. As shown below 44 participants responded. 28 of the 44 participants also provided an explanation regarding their chosen option. This is discussed further below the graph.

Figure 6: How should the coastal plan balance and manage cultural, recreational and commercial activities within areas of biodiversity value?



A summary of the comments made by participants is provided below:

- Some responses mentioned only permitting access to these areas for monitoring and restoration purposes
- A number of comments were made on prohibiting commercial fishing and increasing limits on recreational fishing
- Protecting recreational activity, fishing and shellfish gathering was mentioned
- Not applying a 'blanket approach' and linking activities to the effects on biodiversity were comments made by participants
- Linking land use activities (i.e. forestry) to effects on marine ecology were mentioned including controls on sediment runoff
- A number of other comments were made. Most of these were not in support of restricting activities within areas of biodiversity value

Other protections that could be included in the coastal plan

There were 34 responses with comments ranging from the protection of species and habitats, intertidal vegetation, mangroves, and seabirds, fishing limits (including commercial fishing), establishing a wider area of marine reserve, land and coastal protections including riparian planting, controls on sediment runoff, protection of low-lying areas including maintenance and expansion of buffering vegetation in response to climate change, and other comments. Of note, there were 10 responses on including the protection of many functionally extinct species and habitats.

Historic heritage and sites of significance

A total of 9 participants responded to questions regarding historic heritage and sites of significance. Below is a summary of the results.

Other cultural and historical sites of significance not yet identified

Three responses were provided outlining several sites not identified in the coastal plan. These related to:

- economic cost outweighing cultural significance
- no historical sites in the proposed protection
- what values had been identified

Activities carried out on or near sites

Five participants provided comments regarding known activities carried out on or near sites:

- two responded none with one saying would be of no concern
- two mentioned recreational fishing
- one referred to the economic cost outweighing cultural significance

Managing activities to protect, mitigate and/or avoid adverse effects

9 participants provided comments on the options for protecting sites of cultural and historical significance. Of the nine respondents all but one chose 'none of the above' i.e. not limit or restrict activities on or near mapped sites of cultural and historical significance. Seven of these respondents provided explanations relating to:

- providing public access and restrict commercial activity
- free access (excluding private land)
- economic cost of this area far outweighs the cultural significance
- current protection is sufficient
- cultural importance is to be shared by all
- correct spelling and names of historical areas
- marine protection areas

Other protections to be included

5 participants suggested other protections that could be included in the coastal plan for sites of significance. One participant mentioned again the economic cost of this area far outweighs the cultural significance, two stated 'none', one requested vehicle access to be kept off significant cultural sites, one referred to freedom for everyone to use the area with respect and the other made comment on all estuaries being significant sites.

Natural character and seascapes (landscapes) responses

A total of 12 participants responded to questions regarding natural character and seascapes (landscapes). Below is a summary of the results.

Broad seascape areas

Listed below are six broad seascape areas proposed in the draft coastal plan. When participants were asked if they agreed with the areas, the majority response was 'no' for all areas with varied respondent rates.

- 7 comments were made from participants on their reason for voting 'no'. Reasons included disappointment with the proposal, disappointment with how mangroves have been managed, and disappointment with the regional council for various reasons.

Figure 1: Area A - Firth of Thames | Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi (n=10)

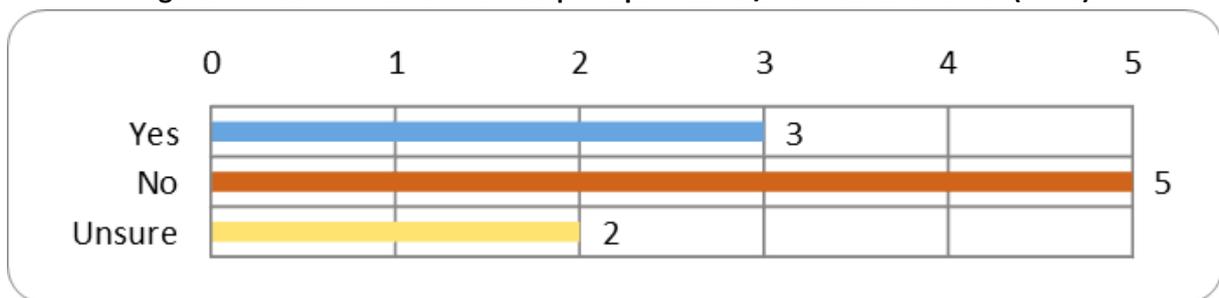


Figure 2: Area B - Western Coromandel | Te Paeroa a Toi / Te Tara o te Ika a Māui (n=10)

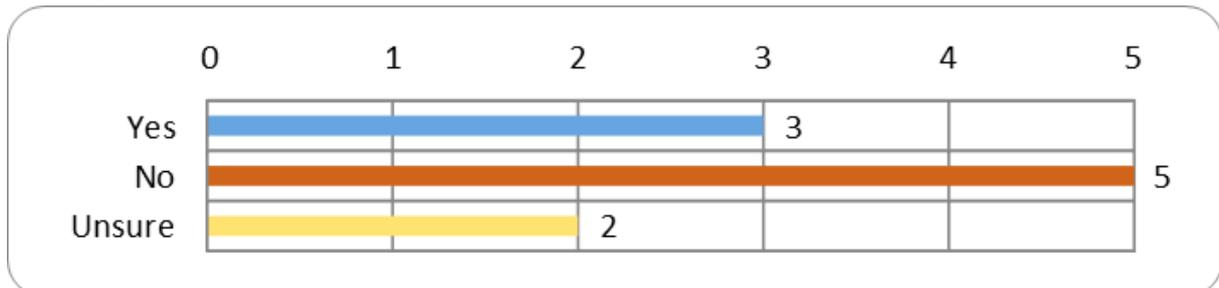


Figure 3: Area C - the Eastern Coromandel (n=12)

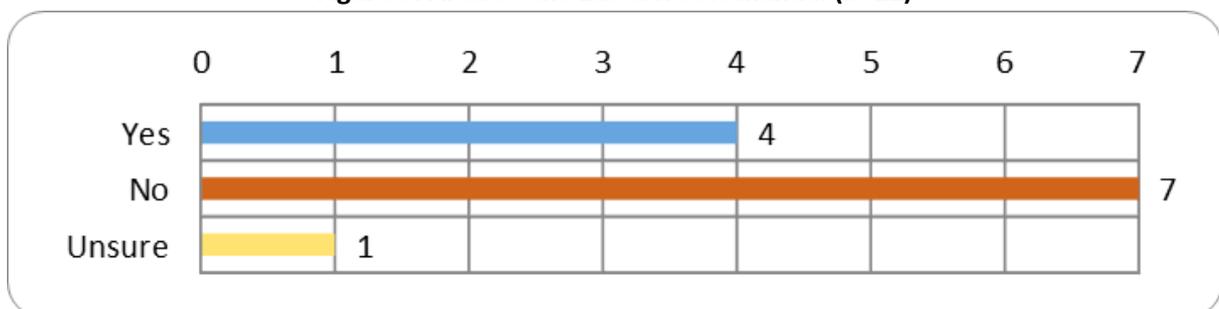


Figure 4: Area D - Waikato North (n=11)

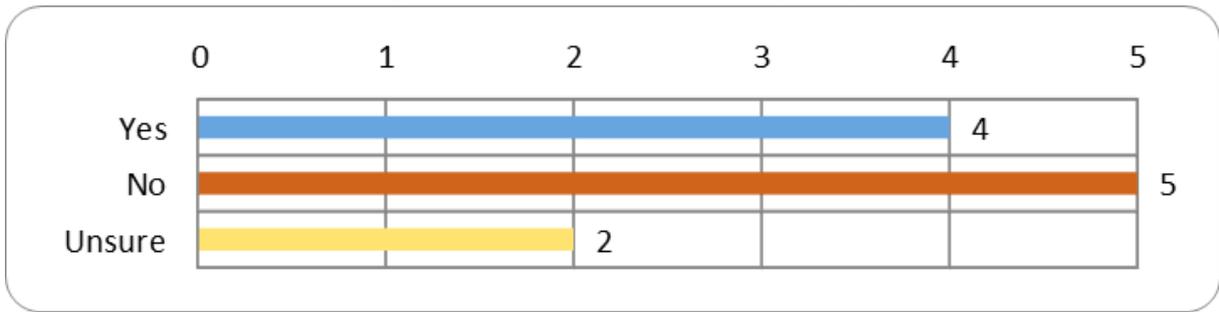


Figure 5: Area E - Whāingaroa (Raglan), Aotea and Kāwhia harbours (n=10)

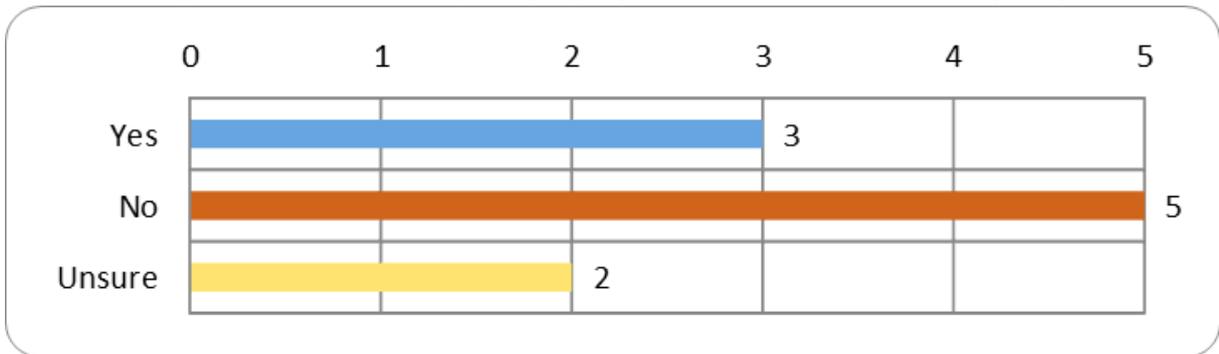
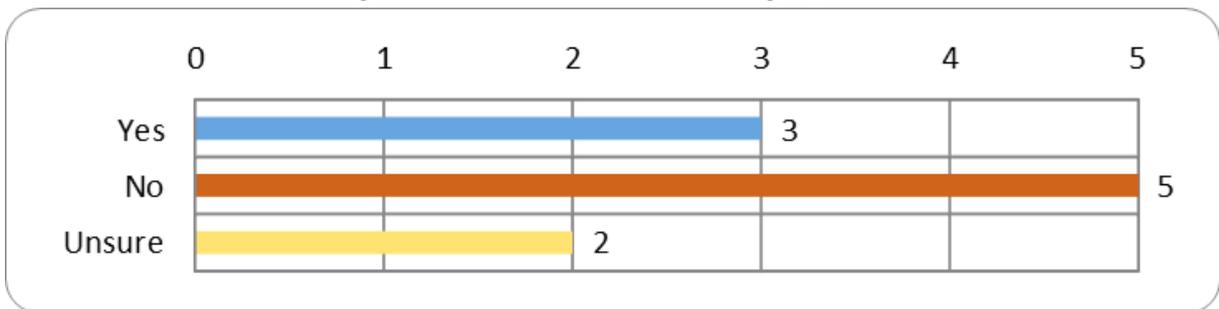


Figure 6: Area F - North Taranaki Bight (n=10)



Other areas to be included in the coastal plan

When asked what other areas they would like included in the coastal plan there were four responses. Two referred to the elimination of mangroves and two to the following areas:

- the estuarine extent of the Duck Creek wetland complex and remnant upper intertidal communities along the coastline.
- all areas need protection, some are deemed more iconic less touched by human activity and suited to preserve

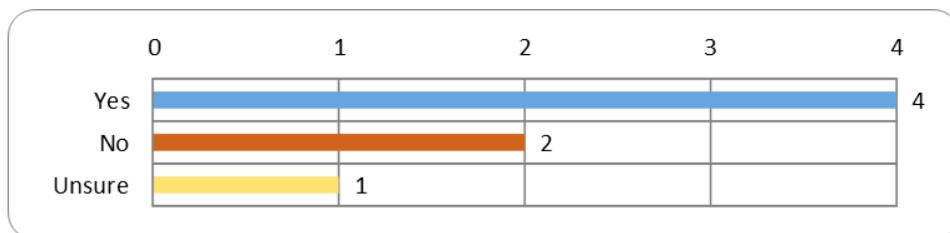
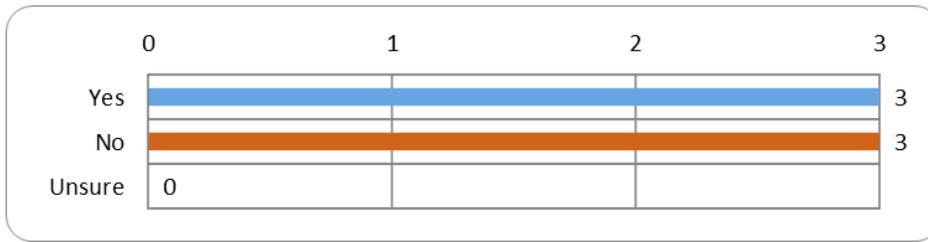


Figure 13: Mātauranga associated with iwi/hapū cultural practices (n=6)



Cultural activities and values to be considered

Participants were provided a list of cultural activities and values. Participants were then asked what are the key cultural activities and/or values that should be considered in these areas? As shown below there was a mix of ‘yes’ and ‘no’ responses with varied respondent rates.

Figure 7: Mauri of the coastal area (n=8)

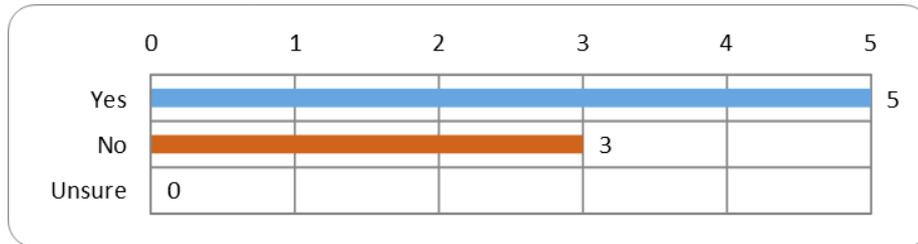


Figure 8: Spiritual relationship or connection of tangata whenua with the coastal area (n=7)

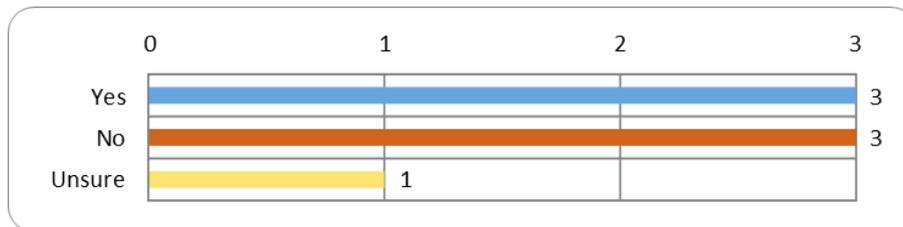


Figure 9: Recognition of ki uta ki tai (holistic, integrated view of the environment) (n=7)

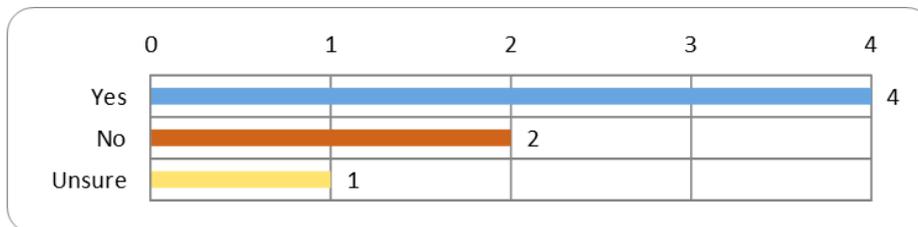


Figure 10: Wāhi tapu, urupā, waka landing places, middens, etc (n=7)

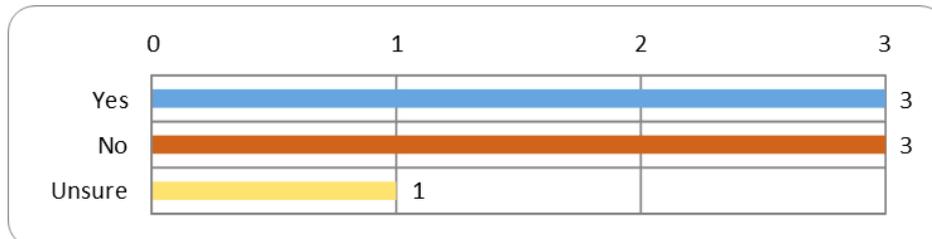


Figure 11: Access to and availability to harvest traditional natural resources (n=9)

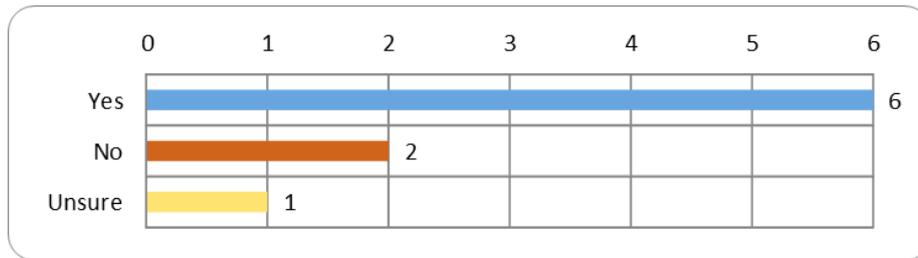


Figure 12: Mahinga mātaītai, haonga ika (shellfish gathering, fishing grounds) (n=7)

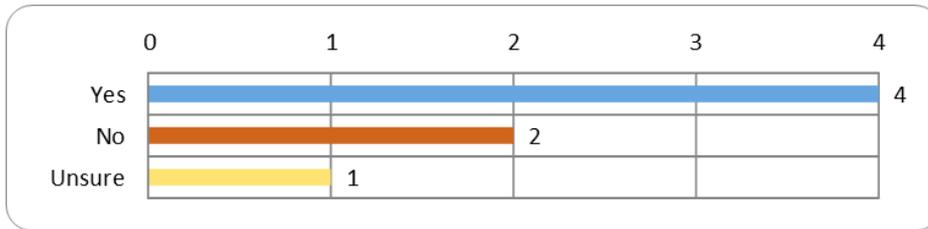
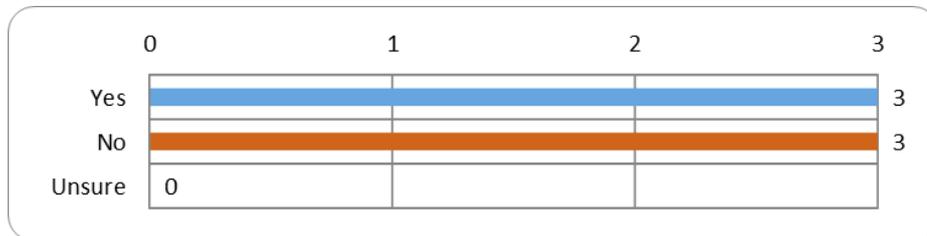


Figure 13: Mātauranga associated with iwi/hapū cultural practices (n=6)



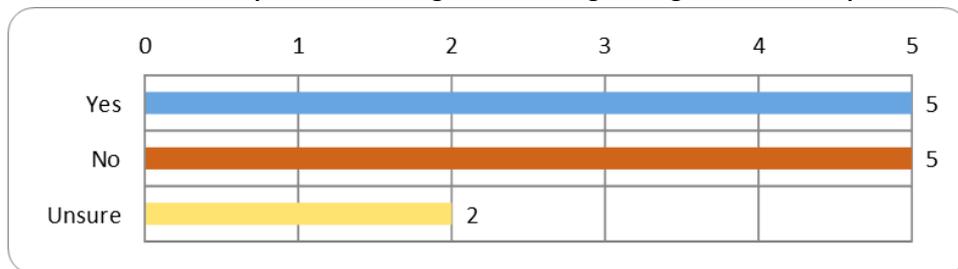
Other cultural activities or values to include

When participants were asked what other cultural activities or values were not listed, there were seven responses. Three referred to ensuring public access, one was disappointed with the proposal, one referred to mangroves hindering access to shellfish, one referred to ‘place of safety and connection to family’ and the other to recreational activity.

Support for High value seascape areas

Participants were asked if the coastal plan should allow for significant change in high value seascape areas. As shown below, there were even ‘yes’, ‘no’ responses (5 each) and two who were ‘unsure’.

Figure 14: Should the coastal plan allow for significant change in High Value Seascape Areas*? (n=12)



**Areas identified as having values that identify their characteristics or attributes as significant under section 6 of the Resource Management Act and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*

Explanation for responses regarding high value seascape areas

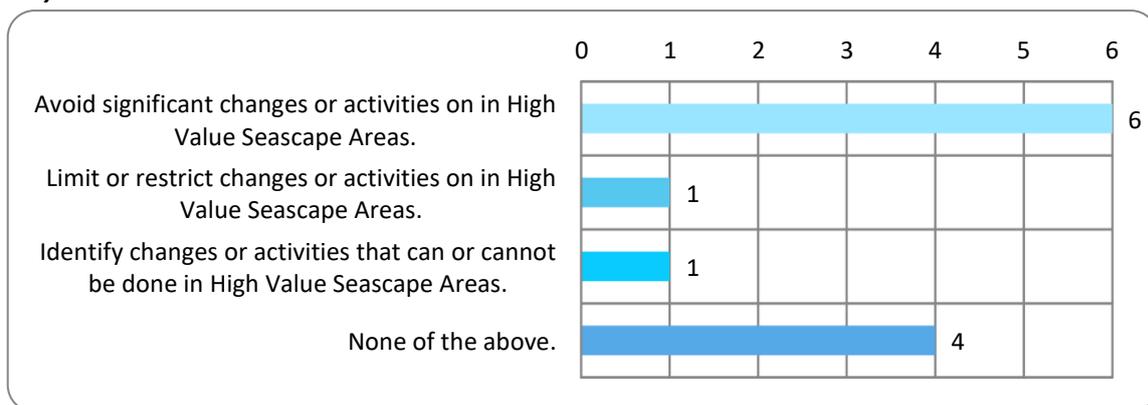
8 out of the 10 participants provided an explanation on their response. These related to:

- restricting commercial activity with free access for public recreational activity (excluding current marine reserves)
- protection for ecological reasons and future generations
- protecting high value seascapes
- clarification on ‘significant status’ needed as well as more community involvement
- mangrove management
- no changes to be made
- more protection from land runoff required, particularly forestry
- access

Managing changes/activities in high value seascape areas

There were 12 responses to how the coastal plan should manage changes or activities in high value seascape areas. As shown below, the majority chose ‘avoid significant changes or activities on high value seascape areas’ followed by ‘none of the above’ responses.

Figure 15: How should the coastal plan manage changes or activities in High Value Seascape Areas? Select one. (n=12)



Options for protecting marine biodiversity survey responses

Policy ECO-P10 – avoiding activities that disturb vulnerable ecologically significant areas

Support for proposed policy to avoid activities that disturb seabed

213 responses were received with 120 (56.3%) supporting the proposed policy to avoid activities that disturb the seabed and 93 (43.7%) not in support (see graph below).

- Most support included leaving recreational fishing as per status quo
- High levels of support for limiting commercial fishing and/or bans on dredging

Method ECO M1 – identifying vulnerable ecological areas in Schedule 7

Figure 1: Policy ECO-P10 – Avoiding activities that disturb vulnerable ecologically significant areas within identified vulnerable ecologically significant marine areas, activities that disturb the foreshore and seabed or adversely affect indigenous biodiversity values must be avoided. (n=213)

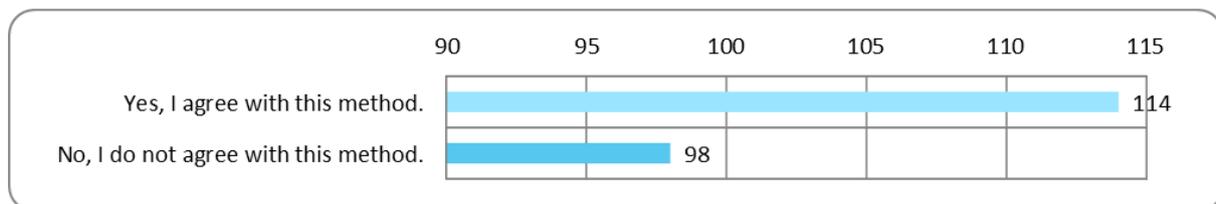


Support for identification of MPAs

212 responses were received with 114 (53.8%) supporting the identification of Marine Protected Areas and 98 (46.2%) not in support (see graph below).

- Do not restrict recreational fishing access
- Support for changes to commercial fishing practices
- Support for retention of status quo - existing reserves and MPI quota
- Some support for reserves

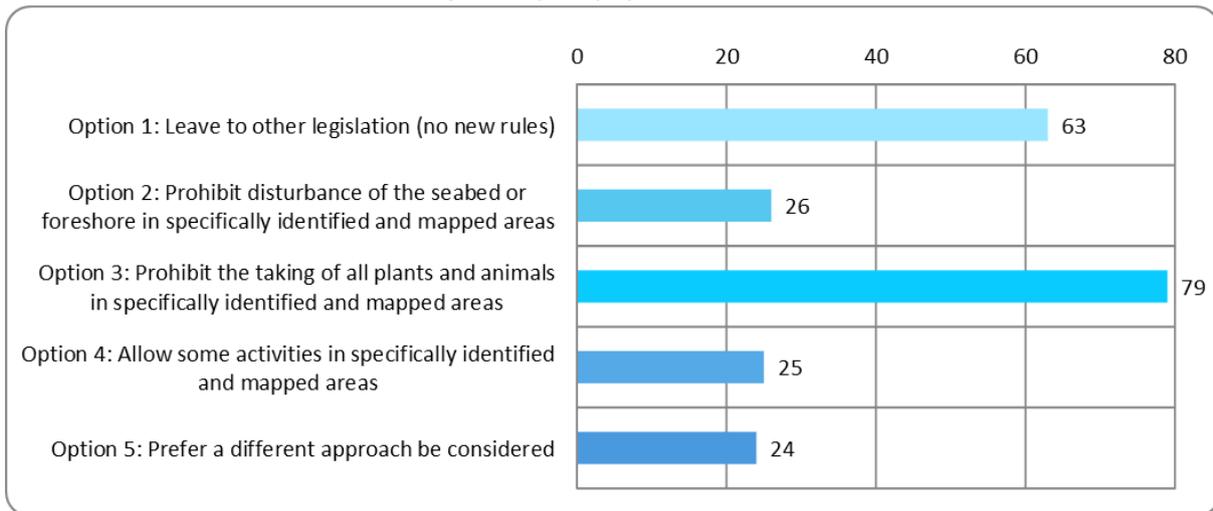
Figure 2: Method ECO-M1 – Identifying vulnerable ecological areas in Schedule 7c. Council will identify and insert areas into a new schedule – Schedule 7c: Ecologically significant marine areas vulnerable to disturbance activities, where there is sufficient information to support the protection of these areas. (n=212)



Preferred options

Respondents were provided a list of five options to choose from. As shown below 217 participants responded. An analysis of each option is discussed further below the graph.

Figure 3: Option preferences (n=217)



Option 1: Leave to other legislation (no new rules).

63 respondents preferred to have no new rules. The majority of comments received were in relation to there being no need for additional measures as this is already managed through Fisheries, MPI and the Quota Management Act.

Concerns were raised about Council’s capacity to monitor any new rules.

- *The Fisheries Act 1996, The Quota Management Act 1986 and incoming regulatory changes coming in with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park initiatives and HGMP Fisheries Plan have and will deliver enough biosecurity protection.*

Option 2: Prohibit disturbance of the seabed or foreshore in specifically identified and mapped areas.

26 respondents supported this option to prohibit disturbance of the seabed or foreshore in mapped areas. Comments were received in support of marine reserves however comments restricting commercial fishing, trawl nets and dredging were more prevalent with a strong voice for the protection of recreational fishing.

- *Agree that disturbances to the seabed should be prohibited in terms of dredging and bottom trawling as are largely destructive to the marine ecosystem.*
- *This allows some fishing while giving protection also*

Option 3: Prohibit the taking of all plants and animals in specifically identified and mapped areas.

79 respondents supported the option to prohibit taking all plants and animals in specific areas. Stronger measures are required to prohibit commercial fishing.

- *There are changes that need to be made with bottom trawling, dredging and other fishing methods that disturb and injure the seabed.*
- *Banning of set (and leave) nets needs to be included as a tool to protect biodiversity*

Option 4: Allow some activities in specifically identified and mapped areas.

25 respondents agree some activities should be allowed in identified areas.

Comments included support for boat or kayak fishing that does not disturb the sea bed, a call for re-education and recognition by Waikato Regional Council that managing silt run-off is a priority for the Regional Policy review process.

Option 5: Prefer a different approach to be considered.

24 respondents preferred a different approach be considered. These included:

- No bottom trawling or dredging, commercial ban on scallop dredging
- Commercial fishing to be banned in areas of significance
- Do not restrict recreational fishing

Areas for greater marine protection as an Ecologically Significant Marine Area

204 people responded to this section of the survey (see graph below).

104 (51%) respondents supported the Mercury Islands Group being identified as an MPA.

Comments received in support of this shared the view that we need more protected marine areas.

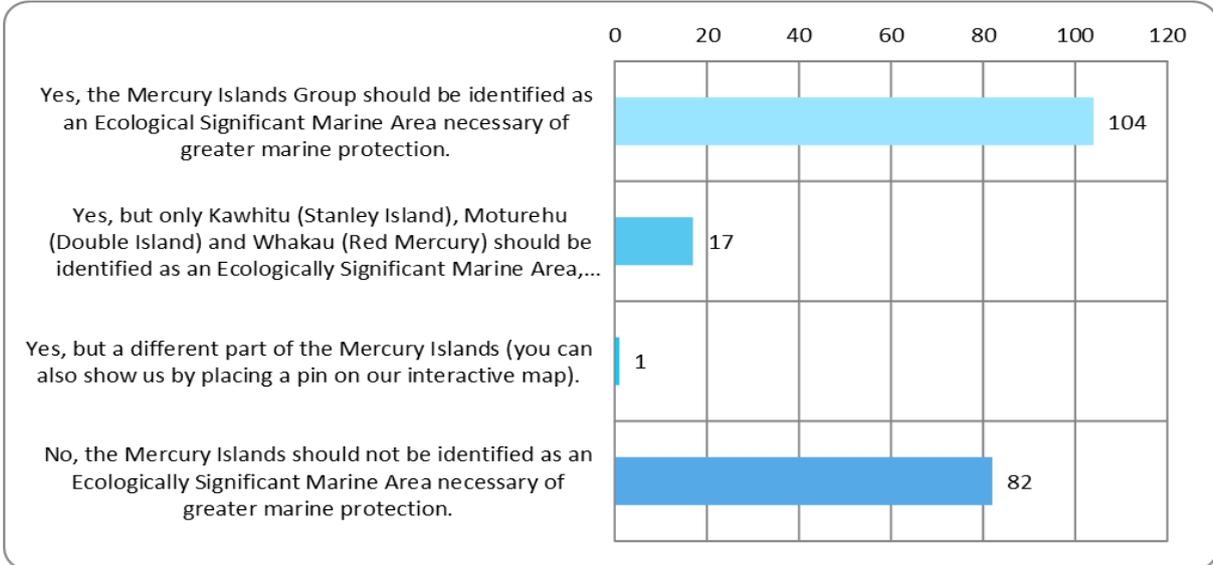
17 (8%) responded Yes to the option that only Kawhitu (Stanley Island), Moturehu (Double Island) and Whakau (Red Mercury) become marine protected areas, not Great Mercury Island (Ahuahu)

82 (40%) respondents said No, the Mercury Islands should not be identified as an Ecologically Significant Marine area necessary of greater marine protection

Comments included:

- Out of scope for regional council to manage
- Too important for recreational fishing/boating
- Protection for all Mercury Islands
- Preferences were expressed to limit catch
- Recognition of the importance of healthy marine ecosystems for diving and snorkelling
- Protect as much as possible

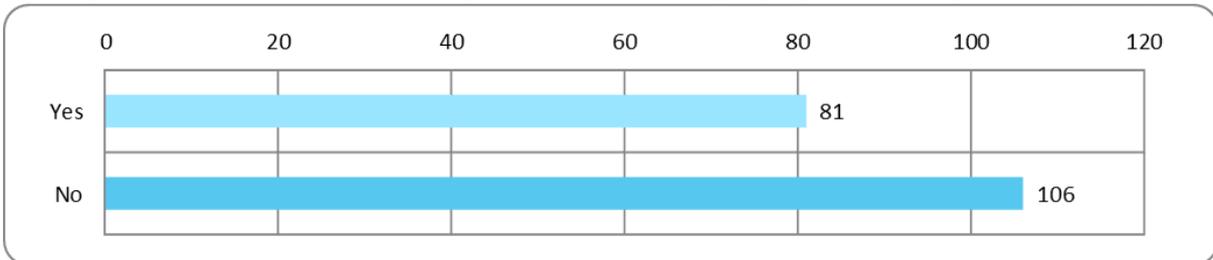
Figure 4: Should this area be identified for greater marine protection as an Ecologically Significant Marine Area? (n=204)



Areas for greater marine protection

As shown below 187 participants responded to the question ‘are there other areas in the region that should be identified for greater marine protection?’

Figure 5: Are there other areas in the region that should be identified for greater marine protection? (n=187)



Attachment C – Proposed Policies ECO-P10 and ECO-M1

ECO-P10 Avoiding activities that disturb vulnerable ecologically significant areas

Within identified vulnerable ecologically significant marine areas, activities that disturb the foreshore and seabed or adversely affect indigenous biodiversity values must be avoided.

ECO-M1 Identifying vulnerable ecological areas in Schedule 7c

Council will identify and insert areas into a new schedule – Schedule 7c: Ecologically significant marine areas vulnerable to disturbance activities, where there is sufficient information to support the protection of these areas.