



# Foundation North - GIFT Submission on Government Response Strategy to Sea Change

June 2020

*I roto i ou tātou ringa ringa te rongoa - already in all our hands are the remedies.*

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**We welcome this opportunity to provide feedback to the Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries on the Government Response Strategy to [Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari - Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan](#).**

[Foundation North](#) holds in trust for the communities of Auckland and Northland an endowment, or pūtea, of over a billion dollars. The endowment allows the Foundation to make grants each year to not-for-profit groups in Auckland and Northland.

In 2016 Foundation North initiated the [Gulf Innovation Fund Together](#) (GIFT), to spark innovation to improve the mauri or life force of Tīkapa Moana/Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi (the Hauraki Gulf). The aim is to support breakthrough ideas and solutions to improve the Gulf's health.

We are heartened to see this Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan. Sea Change has been instrumental in guiding the work of GIFT.

We begin by sharing some of our high-level learning from GIFT, about what it will take to achieve system change in the Gulf, see [Mohiotanga](#). These insights and our work in the Gulf over the last four years have informed our feedback on the eight workstreams.

## Key Insights from GIFT

For a government response to Sea Change that achieves more than small scale, incremental change, our four years of working in the Hauraki Gulf has told us that significant positive change requires:

- **A holistic perspective and collaborative effort** - Ki uta ki tai, the Hauraki Gulf is an interdependent ecosystem, and what happens on land is integral to the moana. Our evidence demonstrates that improving outcomes for Tīkapa Moana/Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi (the Hauraki Gulf) requires a Mountains to Sea approach. Government, industry, iwi/Māori, philanthropy, research, the environment sector and communities all have a part to play. Our [GIFT Year 3](#) report shares some of the hopes and barriers of stakeholders in restoring the mauri of Tīkapa Moana/Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi (the Hauraki Gulf).
- **A whole of government approach** - There are many government departments with responsibilities for the Hauraki Gulf within a complex policy, regulatory and legislative environment. Central coordination of an integrated government approach is required, with mandate and accountability to ensure appropriate resourcing and implementation.
- **Being guided by Mātauranga Māori and taking a bicultural approach** - Bringing Māori and Western knowledge together offers unique insights and opportunities to do things differently in how we look after our whenua and moana (land and sea). In GIFT, having a

vision to improve mauri has acted as a gateway to learning from Te Ao Māori. It has led to us having a Mātauranga Māori/Science Advisor to support direction and decision making and an Advisor to guide bicultural thinking and practice. We are also supporting our grantees to deepen their understanding of mauri. A bicultural way of working, with equal weight given to Mātauranga Māori alongside Western science, will benefit the Gulf. See our [mauri wānanga](#) experience, reflecting the start of our shared learning journey about mauri with GIFT grantees and stakeholders.

- **Engagement with Tangata Whenua** - In GIFT, we are consciously responding to requests from Iwi to assist and resource them based on their interests and aspirations for the Hauraki Gulf. We draw on the experience and skills of our staff and kaumātua to guide us in this mahi and have developed tools to support our work and our practise. Please refer to our [guidelines for ethical engagement](#).
- **Commitment to powering up together** - There are many individuals and small groups in the Gulf doing great work, but through GIFT we have seen that many are working in isolation and feel exhausted and unsupported. GIFT grantees are clear about their need and desire to connect and build joint capacity to amplify efforts, and this is a key focus for GIFT. Central and local government can also help by bringing stakeholders together, alongside a commitment to reducing the burden of compliance and bureaucracy. See for example this [case study](#) for co-managed marine protection around the Noises group of islands, as an example of working effectively and collaboratively with mana whenua and all interested stakeholders.

## Foundation North - GIFT Feedback

Feedback on the proposed eight workstreams is presented below. Our overarching questions are: What will the role of Iwi be in these discussions? And, how might Mātauranga Māori be incorporated?

Workstream	Foundation North – GIFT Feedback
<b>Workstream 1– Fisheries Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify the scope of this strategy. Will it change the quota management system and/or set sustainable fishing limits?</li> <li>• It is important to ensure that there is an explicit timeframe for delivery.</li> <li>• Broker a clearer and more consistent interpretation of fish stocks data.</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 2 – Marine Habitat Restoration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the status of this guidance, will this be voluntary only?</li> <li>• How will it be enforced or incentivised?</li> <li>• What resource will be allocated to support implementation of the guidance framework?</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 3 – Aquaculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will there be appropriate public transparency and community and stakeholder consultation on aquaculture proposals and their monitoring?</li> <li>• What will be the role of Iwi be in these discussions? How might Mātauranga Māori be incorporated?</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 4 – Marine Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More clarity is required on activity proposed in this workstream.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is a timeframe for the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) process.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How might room be made for ‘pilot MPAs’ that are more creative/experimental?</li> <li>• Can some MPAs go ahead while the rest are being investigated?</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 5 – Protected Species</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In recognition that urgent action is required – is there an opportunity to prototype ideas for solutions to deliver the action required now to protect species?</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 6 – Ahu Moana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The localised approach is endorsed, along with the opportunity to explore participatory governance models, particularly where this involves iwi.</li> <li>• There is a key opportunity to learn through prototyping and trialling. It is critical that the appropriate learning and evaluation frameworks are embedded into this process.</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 7 – Marine biosecurity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More clarity is required on the activity proposed in this workstream.</li> </ul>
<b>Workstream 8 – Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive of the intent to work towards “strong and effective co-governance”.</li> <li>• There is an opportunity to work with iwi/Māori to identify principles and components of good governance.</li> </ul>

## An offer of support

We understand that turning the tide of degradation in the Hauraki Gulf will require a collective effort and we are willing to play our part. We offer the following:

- As a philanthropic funder in the Auckland and Northland rohe, we can offer a neutral space to bring people together. We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively to continue the conversations needed for systems change.
- Access to our resources and learnings from the [GIFT website](#). For example, our case studies, evaluations and guidelines for ethical engagement.
- The opportunity to act as a connector to assist in the establishment of relationships with Iwi, community and stakeholders in our rohe.
- An invitation to MPI and DOC staff to participate in our collaborative learning and development sessions, for example a mauri wānanga planned later in 2020.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Government Response Strategy to Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan. We look forward to the continuation of this collaborative approach and working with you more in future, to improve the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf.

Ngā mihi nui



Peter Tynan  
Chief Executive  
**Foundation North**