

## Show some love for our big blue backyard these holidays

Aucklanders share a love for our big blue backyard, Tīkapa Moana/Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

At 1.2m hectares, our Marine Park is New Zealand's first, largest and only national park of the sea. Boasting 25 marine mammals - a quarter of all marine species found in the world, including the world's largest mammal the blue whale - it's also the seabird capital of the world, with 26 species resting and nesting on 47 predator-free islands.

The Hauraki Gulf is part of our extended whānau and as we approach the holiday season it's time we reflected on how we're looking after her.

Over the last 100 years, our behaviour as humans has had a devastating effect on the mauri or life force of the Gulf - some of our actions and practices are out of alignment with nature. Tīkapa Moana/Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi is fighting to regenerate herself, and it is within our scope and power to start to tip the balance in her favour by changing our mindsets and our behaviours.

We'd like to think that most of us can start caring more for nature in the place we live and love. It starts by adopting simple, positive actions like this – not just for summer... for ever.

1. Don't walk on by this summer - if you see plastic rubbish in the street or on the beach, pick it up and find a better home for it.
2. Summer's the time to be outside; to walk, cycle or scoot your way around more than 2000kms of beautiful coastline.
3. Slow the flow - stormwater flowing into the harbour from our sections adds to sediment loss. Wash your car on the lawn or go to a car-wash; most clean and recycle the water they use.

Have fun out there, take care of yourself as well as our beautiful natural backyard by leaving it as you find it. Check out some more easy ways you can give the Gulf a gift this summer here - [www.sustainable.org.nz/gulfx-action-page/](http://www.sustainable.org.nz/gulfx-action-page/)

*An open letter co-signed by:*

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**ENDS**



# Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

