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Media Statement

Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari back on track

The Ministers of Conservation and Fisheries today announced their intention to establish a Ministerial Advisory Committee, early next year, to assist with the implementation of the *Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari* marine spatial plan.

“This is excellent news”, said EDS Policy Director Raewyn Peart.

“It’s great to see the government now showing leadership in progressing implementation of the plan which aims at restoration of the badly diminished Hauraki Gulf.

“Many people including local iwi, fishers and environmental groups put an enormous effort into developing the plan so it’s fitting that these efforts are now being recognised.

“Since the plan was completed two years ago the ecological health of the Hauraki Gulf has continued to decline. Fish stocks are suffering.

“The longer we delay action the harder it will be to turn this situation around. So today’s announcement comes as a big relief.

“The plan sets out a collective road map for the way forward. It’s ambitious, as it needs to be, in order to effect the kind of changes needed, but it’s entirely doable.

“What’s been missing is the leadership to get started and it looks like this gap is now being filled. EDS congratulates Ministers Sage and Nash on this important step forward.

“It’s vital now that we focus on what’s in the best interests of the Hauraki Gulf, and get on with the implementation of the plan without delay,” concluded Ms Peart.