

## Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

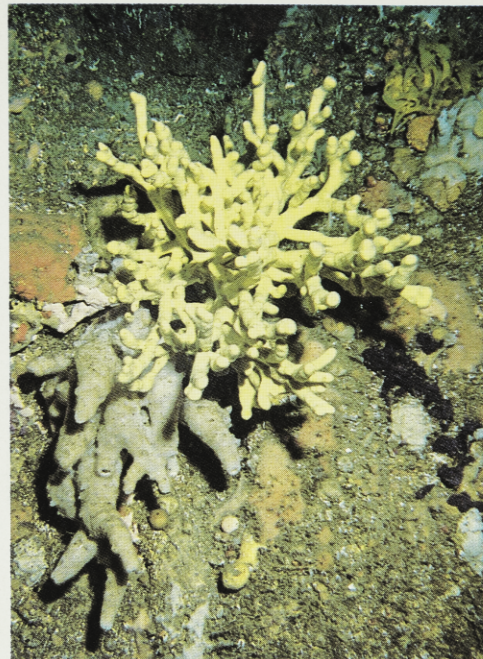
**I**N 1967, the protected land areas of the Gulf were gathered together to make the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park. It was New Zealand's first maritime park and a completely new concept in reserves. The park provided integrated management for more than 50 islands. Today the park is administered by the Department of Conservation and the Hauraki Conservation Board.

Unfortunately, the waters of the Hauraki Gulf have always been outside the jurisdiction of the Park. But last year, the Minister of Conservation, Denis Marshall, proposed addressing this omission by creating a new Hauraki Gulf Marine Park that would give widespread protection to marine communities within the Gulf. At this stage, the area, the controlling authority, permitted uses and guiding principles for the park are undetermined. The Department of Conservation hope to publish a draft discussion document on the proposal shortly. For further information refer to Forest and Bird's *Conservation News*.

island creation schemes but all were discounted for a variety of reasons, including cost. Land disposal options are considerably more expensive than marine disposal options. The port company's figures indicate that it would cost the company \$25.00 per cubic metre to dispose of sediment at the Noises site and approximately \$75.00 per cubic metre to dump the sediment on land.

Real alternatives to dumping at sea do exist and are being used successfully overseas. In Glasgow, the Clyde Port Authority has combined with the University of Strathclyde to devise the techniques and technology to process 100,000 tonnes of sediment per annum into soil. The sediment is mixed with compostable materials, dewatered and desalinated then used as a landscaping soil. The Clyde Port Authority is effectively recycling their sediment and by treating it as a resource, they are able to sell the soil and operate the plant at a profit. This type of process is ideal for non-toxic sediments. However, contaminated dredgings should still be disposed of in a landfill where leachate is contained and treated.

When the Planning Tribunal make their decision on the water rights for the Auckland Port Company's dredge dumping applications, that will not be the end of the matter. The Minister of Transport, Mr Rob Storey, is also required to give his consent to a dumping permit under the Marine



*Sponges and other marine life cover rocks at the Noises – but will die if smothered by silt. Photo: Bruce Carter*

Pollution Act. The Minister has to consider wider matters than those considered by the Planning Tribunal, though there is no formal process for the public of Auckland to object under this Act. Mr Storey may consider that land disposal is preferable – then let the fish dare to complain! **f**

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