



**Tāmaki  
Estuary  
Protection  
Society**  
EST. 1969

**TEPS  
Newsletter #63  
January 2024**

[View this email in your browser](#)

## News From Your Chair

Welcome to our TEPS summer 2024 update. Events during 2023 demonstrated the importance of continued community vigilance for caring for our environment, especially our waterways.

This newsletter includes an update on pollution, marine biosecurity, and Estuary e-DNA testing, lists TEPS submissions, and looks ahead to in 2024. There is also an update from our 'foreign correspondent' in Melbourne. We need to continue to work together to ensure improvements, clean water, and healthy biodiversity, can be achieved for the Tāmaki Estuary and its waterways.

TEPS committee meetings are usually monthly, and TEPS members are very welcome to attend. Prospective committee members are welcome. Please email me at [Chair@TEPS.org.nz](mailto:Chair@TEPS.org.nz) or text 021 204 4118 for information.

Dr Julie Chambers PhD  
TEPS Chairperson

## TEPS eDNA Project Update

The Tāmaki Estuary is a documented 'high-value' Rig nursery and we were disappointed last spring when our eDNA testing showed no evidence of Rig. Turns out Rig eDNA is quite tricky to test for. Hence our delight that our recent 2023 Spring results showed evidence of Rig!

Rig has many names including: *Mustelus lenticulatus*, Spotted Dogfish, Gummy

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Shark, Smoothhound, Spotted Smoothhound, Lemonfish, Māngo, Makoo, Pioke](#)[Translate](#) ▼

To learn more about Rig's lifecycle:-

<https://gopi.org.nz/rig-shark/>

See more of our eDNA results:-

<https://www.wilderlab.co.nz/explore>

<https://niwa.co.nz/fisheries/research-projects/rig-shark>



Adult rig (*Mustelus lenticulatus*) Credit: Malcolm Francis, NIWA

## Marine Biosecurity Capacity At The Landing

Congratulations to the Orākei Local Board Chair for responding to concerns about marine biosecurity. The loss of marine biosecurity capacity at Orākei "Landing" has the potential to adversely impact the Tāmaki Estuary. This was hotly debated at the Local Board meeting on November 16, 2023.

The absence of resource to haul out boats at the Landing leaves a greater possibility vessels contaminated with marine pests will need to travel further and come into the Tāmaki Estuary.

In November the Board voted..." *subject to commercial viability, (the plan is to retain approximately 50 per cent of the 2022 managed hardstand area (about 2,750 square metres, including the washdown pad and associated existing filtration system) to establish a smaller, flexible-use site for a short-stay haul-out facility...*"

Full minutes are available here:-

[Minutes of Orākei Local Board - Thursday, 16 November 2023 \(aucklandcouncil.govt.nz\)](#)

See also:-

[The Landing concept design gets go ahead - OurAuckland \(aucklandcouncil.govt.nz\)](#)

## Pollution, Pollution And More Pollution

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▾



Safe swim showed Estuary Beaches swimmable on 8 January 2024 <https://www.safeswim.org.nz/>

Catastrophic sewage pipe failures in 2023 brought attention to sewage spills into the Waitematā Harbour. Auckland’s beaches, including Point England were repeatedly ‘black flagged’ as contaminated by sewage and not safe for swimming. Although a reasonable distance away from the spill, local yachties noticed the stink of sewage in Estuary seawater during the height of the event.

Check the safe swim website [Safeswim](https://www.safeswim.org.nz/) website regularly. The site now provides notice of pollution at Point England, Farm Cove, Big Bucklands and Little Bucklands.

Pollution has also been seen as ‘foam’ flowing down streams feeding the Estuary, including Omaru Creek and Pakuranga Stream.

These events underline the importance of local people reporting adverse events in local streams so the source can be identified, and education (and preventative intervention) provided.



Pollution in Pakuranga Creek August 2023. Photo: Marilyn Bakker

## Reporting Pollution Events

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

to Auckland Council to raise awareness of these events happening.

**Auckland Council Pollution Hotline on 09 377 3107 (24 hours a day, 7 days) [Report pollution \(aucklandcouncil.govt.nz\)](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)**

If what you see flowing in the stream, or across grass, is likely to be from a toilet.

Contact Watercare (09) 442 2222: press 1

<https://www.watercare.co.nz/Contact/Contact-us>

## TEPS Submissions During 2023

Keeping the Estuary in the minds of our decision makers is an important role for our TEPS executive. During 2023 TEPS made the following submissions to raise awareness of the Estuary.

- Maungakiekie Local Board approached re the need to stop erosion at Wai-O-Taiki Bay
- Auckland Council Futures Strategy
- Auckland Council re Plan Change 90 (residential developments at Sparky Road, Highbrook)
- Auckland Council Freshwater Strategy
- Presentation to St Johns Rotary
- Submissions to Local Boards surrounding the Estuary re Local Board Plans.
  - Maungakiekie/Tamaki
  - Howick
  - Orakei
  - Otara/Papatoetoe
  - Mangere-Otahuhu

Copies are available by emailing [Chair@Teps.org.nz](mailto:Chair@Teps.org.nz) or texting Julie at 021 204 4118.

## Update from Melbourne

In Australia, the long waited political battle has started in the State of Victoria with the release of the report The Port Phillip Coastal Hazard Assessment this week. The project has taken nearly six years to complete. It is highlighting the areas of risk from inundation and/or rising ground water levels from increasing sea level rise.

The big questions now being asked are who is in charge of preparing the costly and controversial task of responding to the many challenges - Local Councils or State.

the too hard to do basket.

On a more positive note below photos showing good initiative by the local council in the area around Williamstown.

Dorthe Siggaard (the TEPS foreign correspondent)



More and more feedback to local Hobson Bay council request shaded areas. Therefore council are planing more hard structure shading like this one by the pier in neighbouring Altona.



There are plentiful of beautiful signs telling people about the local fauna.



Hobsons Bay Council have done lots of revegetation in and around the wetlands area along the coastline to Port Phillip.

# TEPS Membership Renewal

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

TEPS membership is \$5.00 for one year, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025. Please renew by transferring \$5.00 to  
**TEPS account: 12 3057 0634462 001**

**Please remember to include your last name in the 'Particulars Field'.**

Please pay your membership subscription for one year only as this helps our administration. Addition sums are welcome as a donation.

TEPS renewal/donation form is at <https://teps.org.nz/join-renew-donate/>

We accept membership renewals at our AGM.



Email:

**Julie Chambers:** [chair@teps.org.nz](mailto:chair@teps.org.nz)

Online:

[www.teps.org.nz](http://www.teps.org.nz)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tamakiestuary>

Phone:

**Julie Chambers:** Chairperson, mobile 021 204 4118



*Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society - preserving, protecting and improving the waters, life and shores of the Tāmaki Estuary.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Tāmaki Estuary Protection Society · 199 St Heliers Bay Rd, St Heliers, Auckland 1077 · New Zealand

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Tamaki Estuary Protection Society · 47 Anderson Avenue · Point England · Auckland, Auckland 1072 · New Zealand

