

## Project Baseline Wellington Kelp Survey Update – 17 December 2016

### Kau Bay Kelp Observation – D03 (17 Dec 2016)

Reference: KB D03

Date: 17 Dec 2016

Time: 2.40 pm -3 pm

Route: From Kau Bay into Mahanga Bay

Surface snorkel observation only

Snorkeler: Nicole Miller & Matt Rolfe

Method: GPS tracking with phone in splash proof bag on top of free diving buoy behind snorkeler.

Accuracy of iPhone 5S GPS combined with iHike NZ application (about +/- 5m). Snorkeler following the weed line around the point towards dense part of the kelp forest, then following on the outside boundary of the floating kelp strands.

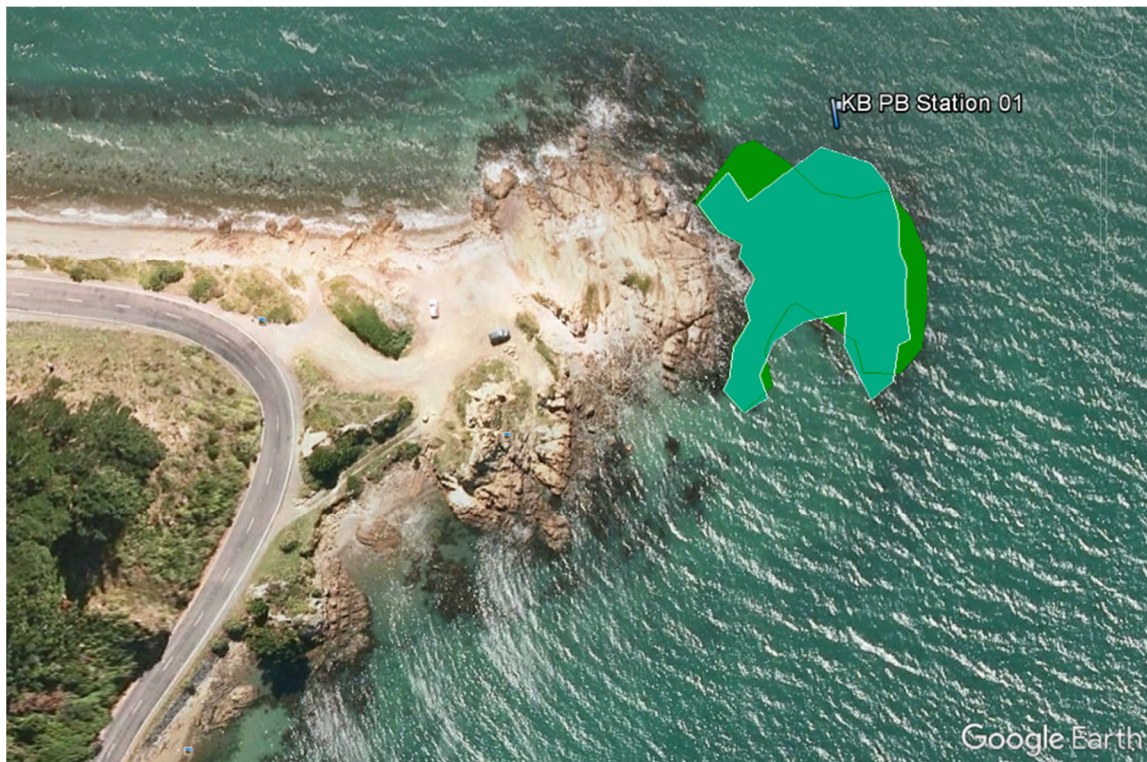
Visibility: 1-2m (at surface, estimated)

Surface Temp: 17° C (Nicole's Suunto Vyper, in shallows up to 18-19° C)

Tide: Incoming (low tide approx. 2.46pm, 0.4m, Linz)

Conditions: northerly, 34km/h, calm around the point

Kelp strands pushed south.



Comparison of kelp beds in June 2016 (forest green, bottom layer, 1,439m<sup>2</sup>) and December 2016 (jade, top layer, 1,377m<sup>2</sup>); Google Earth view.

Google Maps Screenshot:

