

Project Baseline Wellington Kelp Survey Update – 17 June 2017

Kau Bay Kelp Observation – D04 (17 Jun 2016)

Reference: KB D04

Date: 17 Jun 2017

Time: 3.40 pm – 5.30 pm

Route: From Kau Bay into Mahanga Bay

Surface snorkel observation only

Snorkeler: Matt Rolfe & Nicole Miller

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.

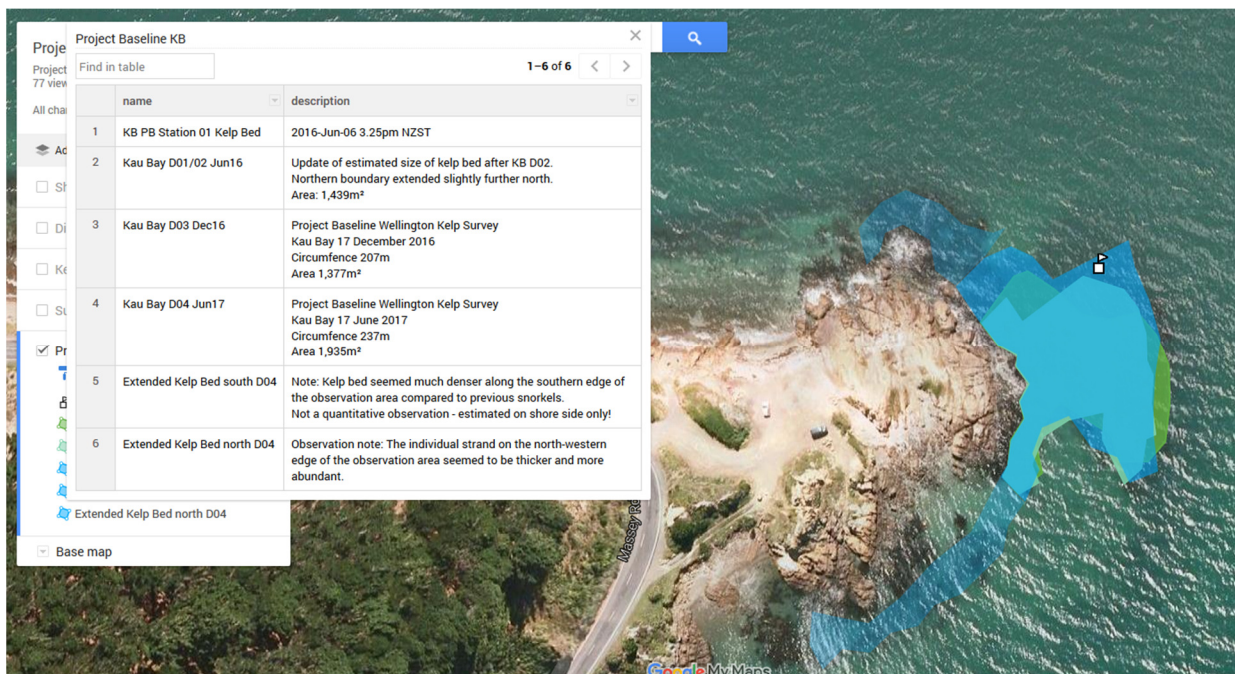
Visibility: 3-4m (at surface, estimated)

Surface Temp: 12° C (Nicole's Suunto Vyper)

Tide: Slack tide, turning incoming (low tide approx. 4.43pm, 0.7m, Linz)

Conditions: calm

Kelp strands straight, slightly pushed into the harbour.



Comparison of kelp beds in June 2016 (forest green, bottom layer, 1,439m²), December 2016 (jade, top layer, 1,377m²) and June 2017 (blue, transparent, 1,935m², not including the extended part); Google Maps.

Google Earth Screenshot:



Comparison of main kelp beds in June 2016 (forest green, bottom layer, 1,439m²) and June 2017 (transparent blue, 1,935m², 1.34-fold area of 2016).