

Project Baseline Wellington Kelp Survey Update – 03 Dec 2020

Kau Bay Kelp Observation – D12 (03 Dec 2020)

Reference: KB D12

Date: **03 Dec 2020**

Time: 2.55pm – 3.30pm

Route: From Kau Bay into Mahanga Bay

Surface snorkel observation

Snorkeler: Nicole Miller

Method: GPS tracking with Garmin etrex 20x in waterproof housing.

Visibility: 1.5-2 m (at surface, estimated), NW gusts and a bit of swell

Surface Temp: 16.2-16.6° C (Olympus TG-4 Tough)

Tide: Incoming (low tide approx. 2.26pm, 0.7, Linz)

Kelp Bed Size: **area covered 1,628m²**

Larger area (P1) Circumference 343m, **area covered 1,548m²**

Smaller area (P2) Circumference 42m, **area covered 80m²**



Dec 2019 (pink 2,143m²) & Dec 2020 (yellow, 1,628m²).



May 2020 (blue, 1,827m²) & Dec 2020 (yellow, 1,628m²).

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Facebook post 05 Dec 2020:

Forget the wind, Wellington just recorded its wettest spring on record. As well as being sodden, the capital has also been chronically starved of sunshine. Wellington averaged just 4.5 bright sunshine hours per day last month — well shy of the 7.5 hours of sunshine it typically receives per day in November.

Comment (NM) – frequent strong northerly winds and run-off due to rain events this spring

Giant kelp (*M. Pyrifera*) surface coverage at Kau Bay Point





