

Project Baseline Wellington Kelp Survey Report for Kelp Survey 28 November 2025 & 30 May 2026

Kau Bay Kelp Observation – D22 (28 November 2025)

Reference: KB D22

Date: **28 November 2025**

Time: 4.25pm to 5.15pm (low tide: 5.58pm, 0.6)

Route: From Kau Bay into Mahanga Bay

Surface snorkel observation

Snorkeler: Nicole Miller

Method: GPS tracking with Garmin etrex 22x in waterproof housing.

Visibility: 2m Kau Bay Side

Temp: 17 °C (Snorkel, Dive Computer), max daily temp 17.6 °C (Hobo)

Kelp Bed Size: **area covered 3,097m²** (2,657m² plus 396m², 44m²)



Nov 2025 (white, 3,097m²) & Nov 2024 (yellow, 3,196m²).



Nov 2025 (white, 3,097m²) & Jun 2025 (blue, 3,196m²).

Kau Bay Kelp Observation – D23 (30 May 2026)

Reference: KB D23

Date: **30 May 2026**

Time: 10.40am to 11.30am (just after low, low tide: 10.03am, 0.8)

Route: From Kau Bay into Mahanga Bay

Surface snorkel observation

Snorkeler: Nicole Miller

Method: GPS tracking with Garmin etrex 22x in waterproof housing.

Visibility: 3m

Temp: 13°C (Snorkel, Dive Computer), max daily temp (Hobo): Hobo still deployed

Kelp Bed Size: **area covered 3,442m²** (2,975m² plus 322m², 15m², 83m², 47m²)

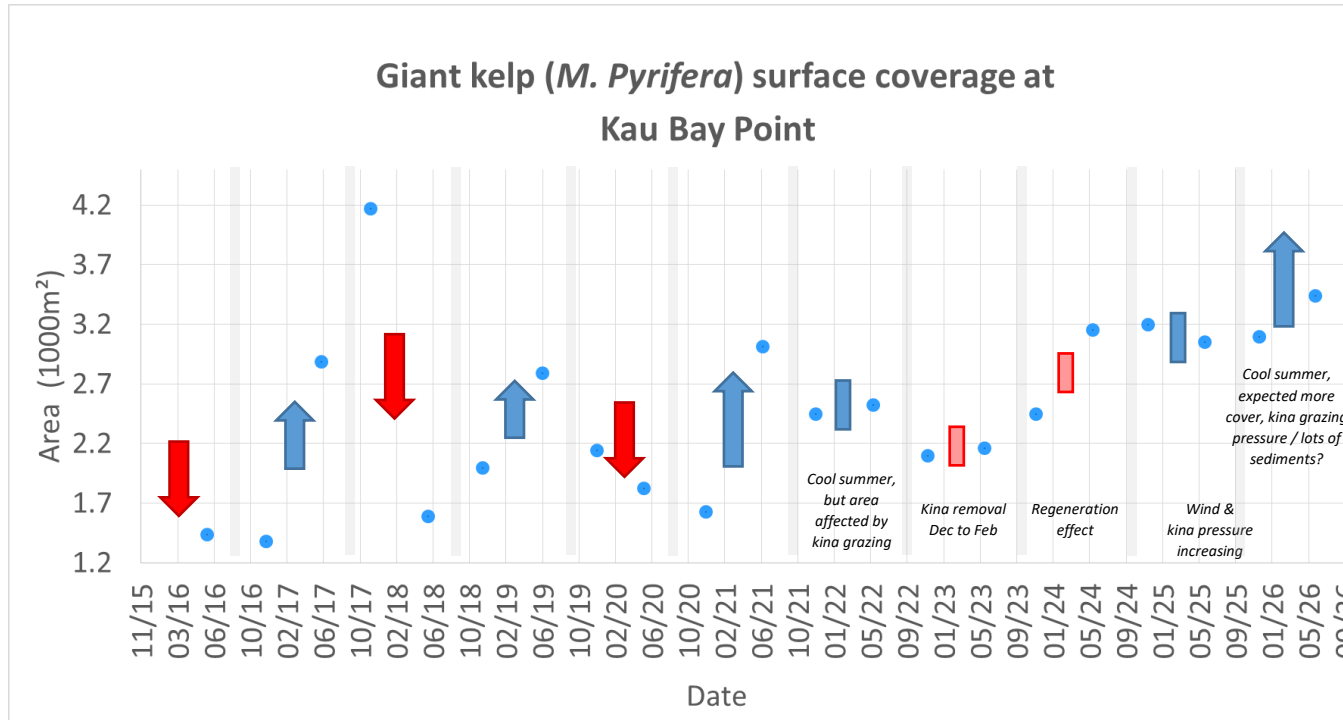


30 May 2026 (purple, 3,442m²) & June 2025 (blue, 3,048m²).



30 May 2026 (purple, 3,442m²) & Nov 2025 (white, 3,097m²).

Giant Kelp Surface Coverage at Kau Point over time



Red & Blue Arrows: warm or cold summers; **Red & Blue Blocks:** slightly warm/cold but not significant.

*Kina (endemic sea urchin) removal event Dec 2022 to Feb 2023, regeneration visible close to existing kelp forest in May 2023, visit www.kinaowhanganuiatara.nz for more info.

*High wind speeds just before the monitoring date in May 2025, no surface coverage, monitored giant kelp just under the surface.

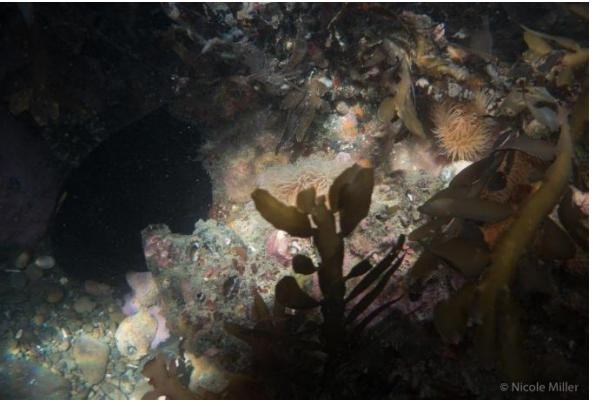
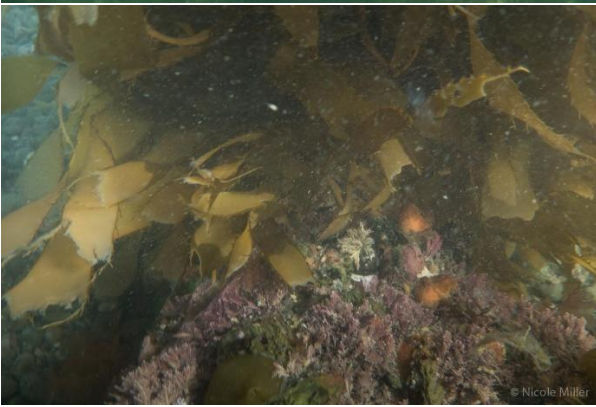
*Visible kina grazing pressure building up over 2025 and into 2026. Encouraged more divers to take their daily quota in 2026. More dark waves/sediments over 2025/2026?

Photos 28 November 2025





University marker buoy overgrown in undaria.



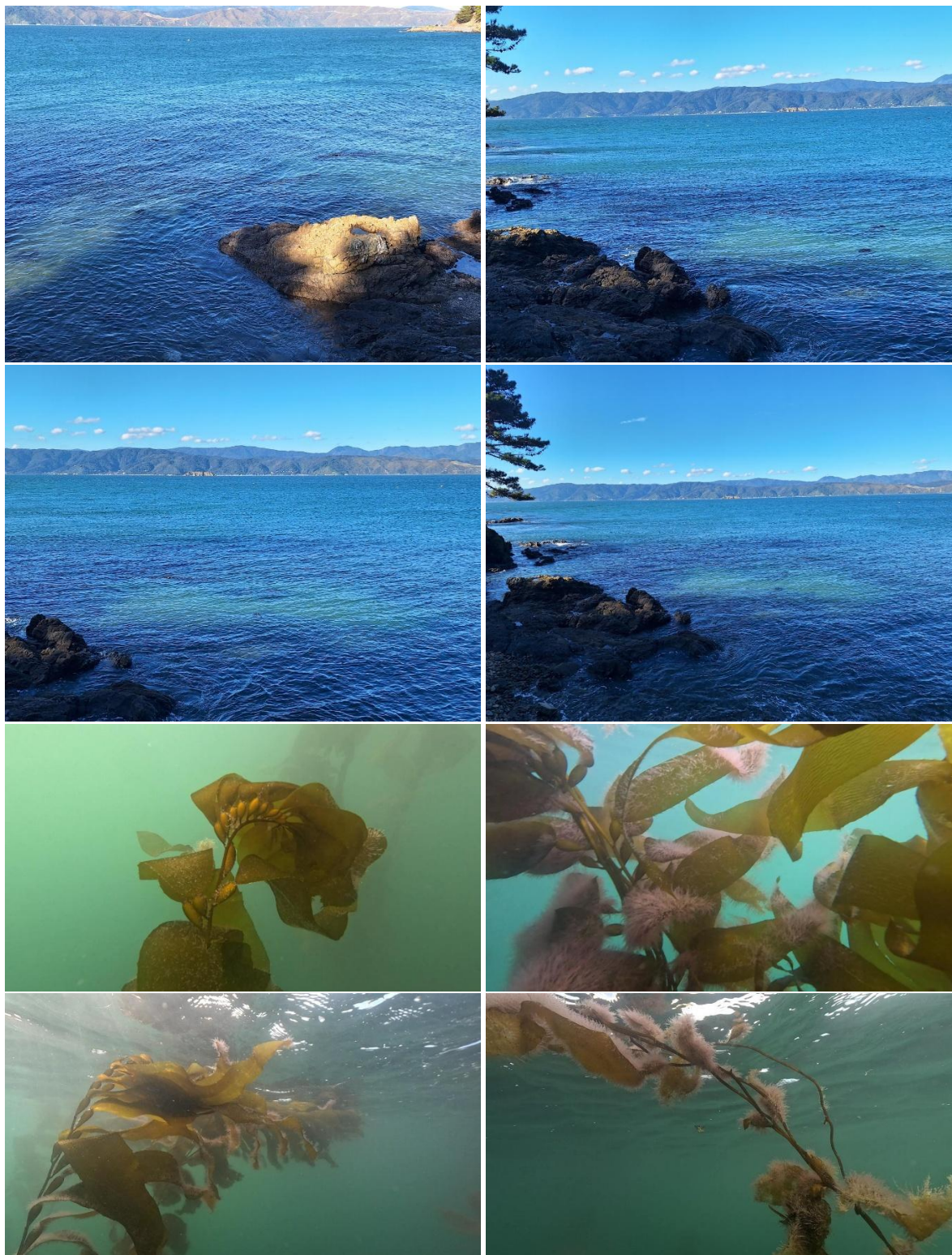


Love Rimurimu rocks tugged in shallow bay on Mahanga Bay side.

Photos 30 May 2026









spot the crabs in three images (two above, left below)





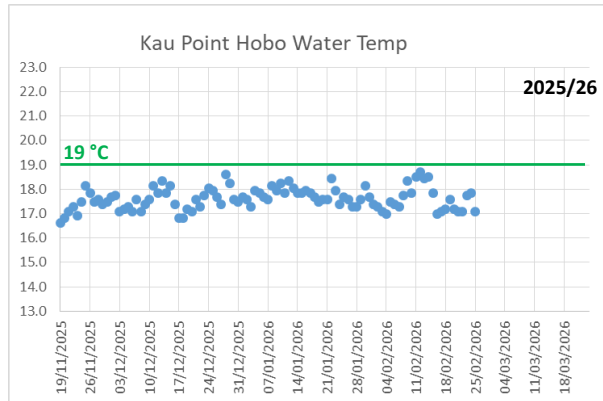
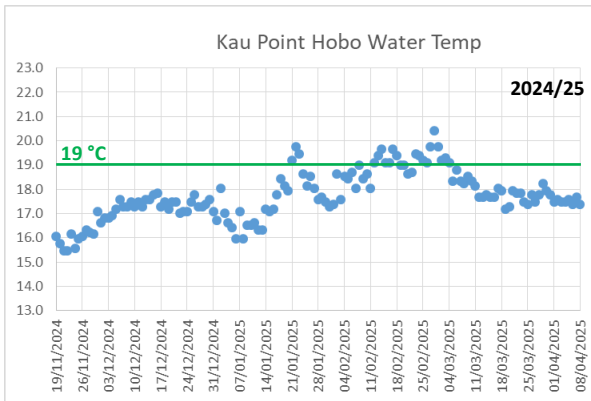
Giant kelp and cystophora



Giant kelp holdfast covered in gravel



Hobo Water Temperature Data

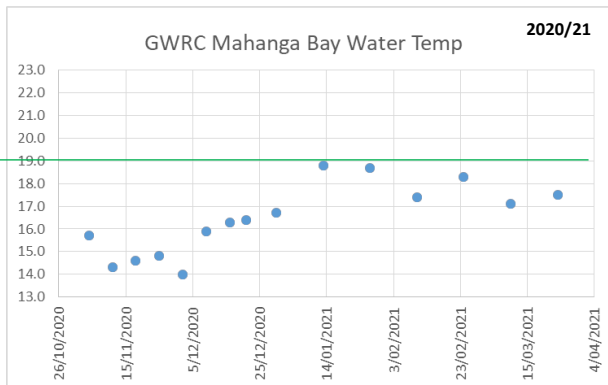
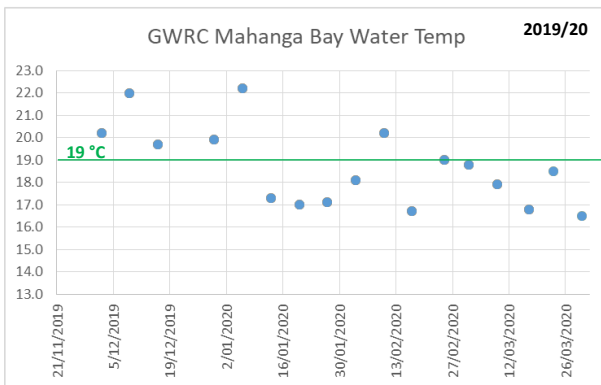
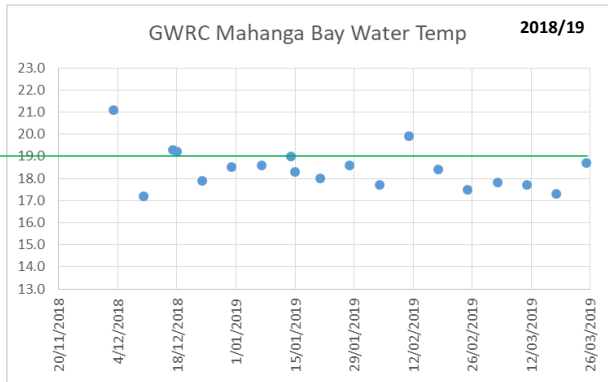
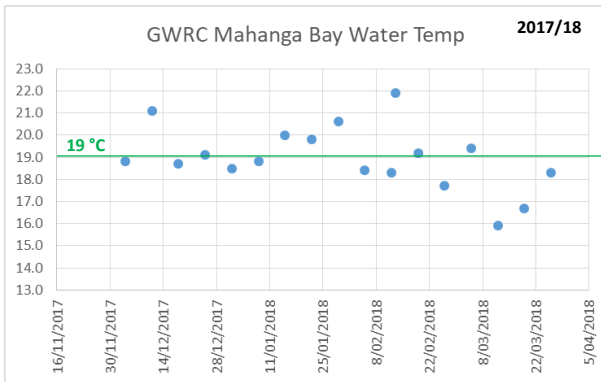
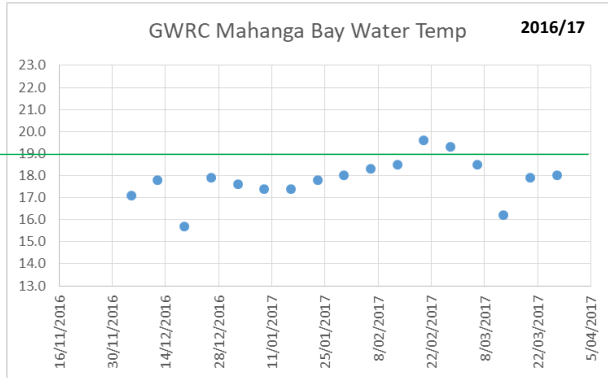
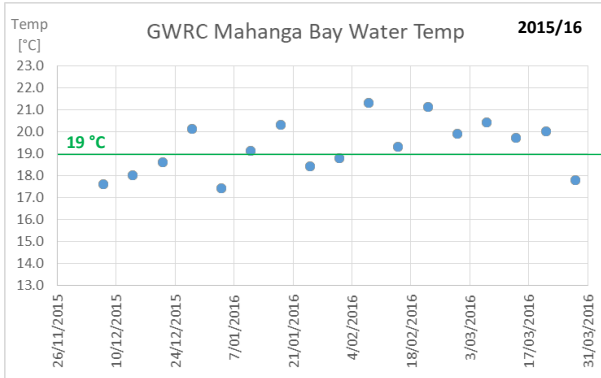


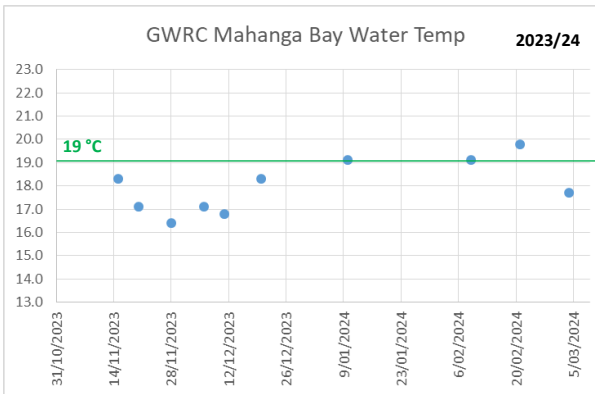
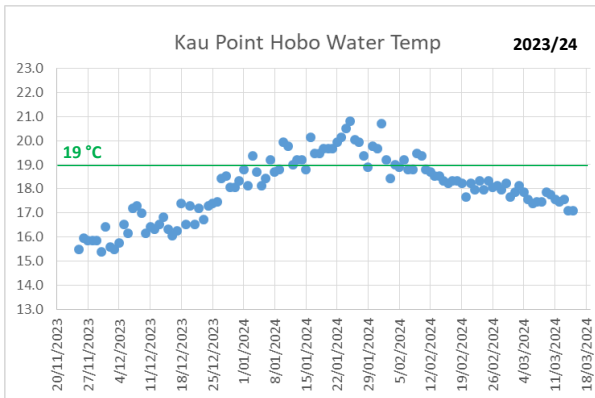
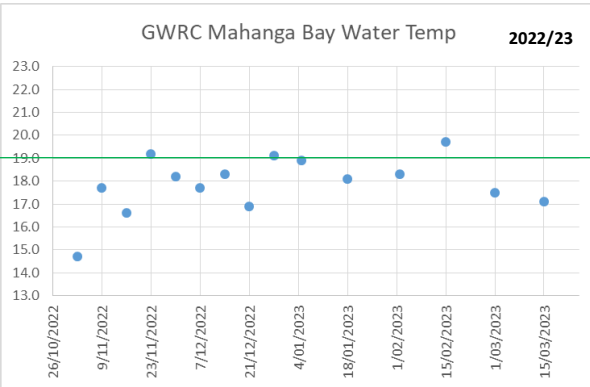
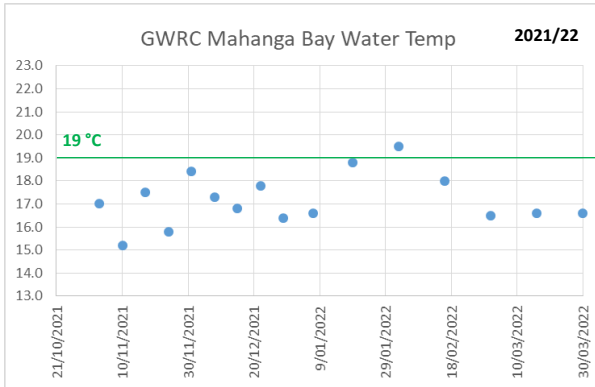
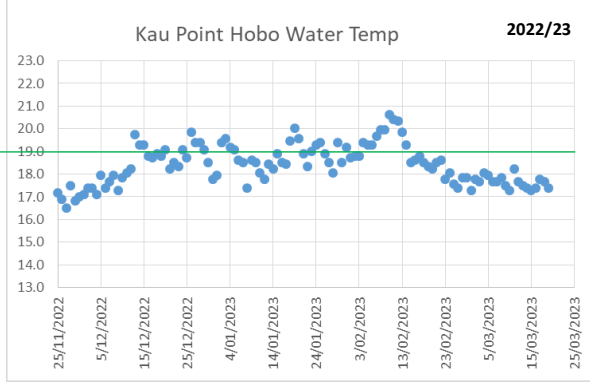
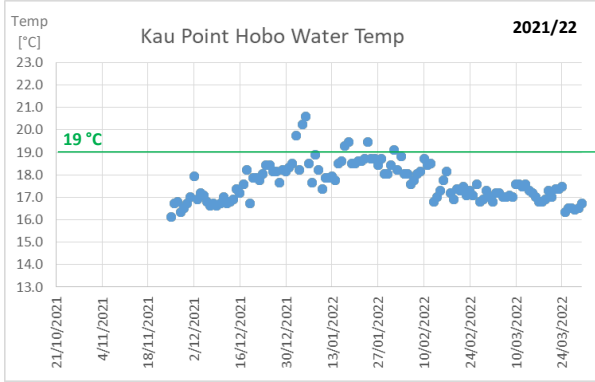
> 19.5 °C
19.5
19.1-19.4

Hobo Data - 22 Jun 2025 to 25 Feb 2026

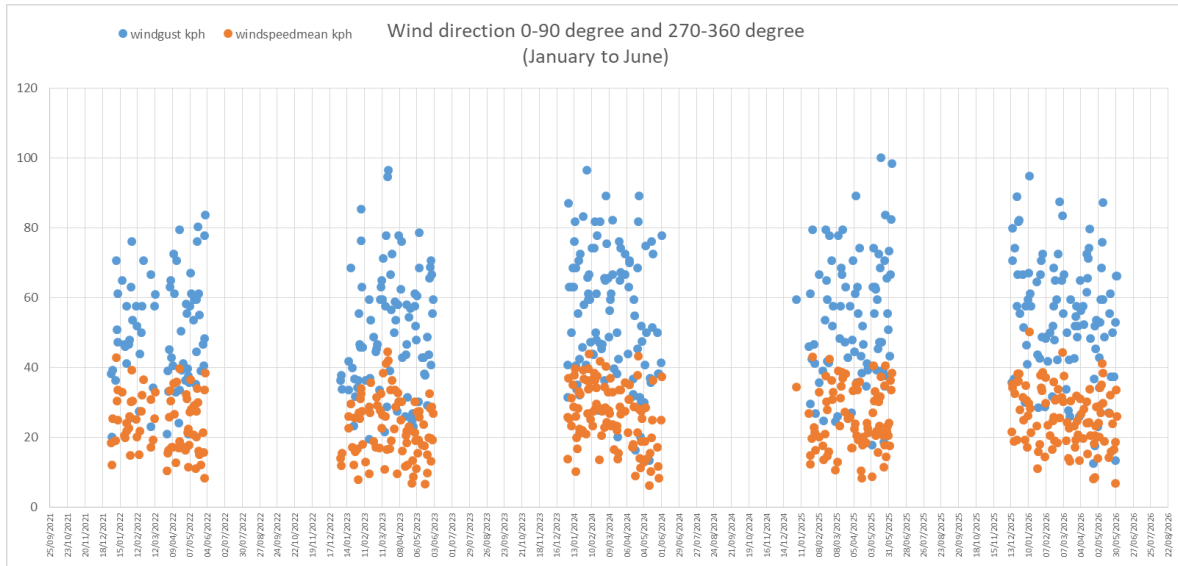
Hobo Data	Date	Max Daily Temp (d C)
None ≥ 19.0		

Max Temp 12/02/2026 18.7





Wind Speed Data



Data obtained from: <https://www.visualcrossing.com/>
 Global Weather Data & API for Every Application. From free access to enterprise solutions for historical, forecast, current conditions, and industry-specific weather data.

Could also look at significant rainfall events (coastal darkening, sedimentation and wind disturbance).