



Issue - Sustaining customary practices



Issue Statement

There are no tools in place over the many fisheries of significance for customary food gathering to allow Ngāti Kurī to utilise their traditional knowledge (mātauranga) and customs (tikanga) to protect these areas.

Our Vision

Our vision is that the traditional knowledge (mātauranga) and customs (tikanga) of Ngāti Kurī are utilised to protect the fisheries of Te Tai o Marokura to create a flourishing, rich and healthy environment, where opportunities abound to sustain the needs of present and future generations. In particular we want to see the traditional fishing areas of special significance to Ngāti Kurī restored and maintained.

Current Knowledge

Customary harvesting occurs throughout the entire area managed by the tāngata tiaki or kaitiaki. Key spots include:

- Waipapa Bay
- Half Moon Bay
- Rakautara
- Mangamaunu
- Kāikōura Peninsula (in particular Sharks Tooth, South Bay)

- Kahutara
- Barney's Rock
- Goose Bay
- Oaro
- Haumuri Bluffs.

The Fisheries Act 1996 and the South Island Customary Fishing Regulations provide a number of 'tools' for tāngata whenua to manage areas important for customary fishing.

The main two are:

1. Areas managed in a more traditional way - the Fisheries Act allows for rahui, mātaimai and taiāpure.
2. Fishing under customary rules practices.

A taiāpure identifies an area that has special significance to local Maori as a source of food or for spiritual or cultural reasons. A management committee, nominated by the tāngata whenua (which may include representatives from local fisheries stakeholder groups, including commercial fishers) is appointed by the Minister of Fisheries. The committee recommends regulations that allow taiāpure to function according to custom.

A mātaimai reserve identifies a customary food-gathering site and allows for its management by tāngata whenua (South Island Customary Fishing Regulations 1998). Tāngata whenua appoint tāngata tiaki to manage mātaimai, which they do by making bylaws. These must be approved by the Minister of Fisheries, and must apply generally to all individuals. Commercial fishing is prohibited in a mātaimai reserve unless otherwise authorised by the Minister of Fisheries. Ngāti Kurī has indicated that it will seek authorisation from the Minister for current commercial fishing to continue in mātaimai for Kaikōura.

There are no mātaimai or taiāpure established over the fisheries of significance for customary fishing in the Ngāti Kurī area - only a 186B temporary closure over Waiōpuka Reef on Kaikōura Peninsula. This temporary prohibition will expire in September 2010. The customary regulations apply when tāngata whenua wish to exceed bag limits or other provisions of the amateur fishing regulations for reasons such as hui, tangi, koha or whānau sustenance. To exercise their customary fishing rights, now administered under the customary regulations, Ngāti Kurī must obtain authorisation from one of their tāngata tiaki or kaitiaki. Tāngata tiaki or kaitiaki were first appointed for Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura in 2000.

The general preference of Ngai Tahu is to use mātaimai rather than taiāpure. Seven areas for protection as mātaimai have been proposed by Ngāti Kurī - the mussel area just north of Mangamaunu, Mangamaunu, Kaikōura Peninsula, Oaro/Haumuri Bluff coastal area, and three freshwater areas the Kahutara River, the Oaro River and the Conway River.

The customary authorisations issued for this area since 2000 are primarily for near-inshore fisheries (in particular, shellfish such as pāua, kina and kōura). The main finfish fished under customary authorisation are rāwaru (blue cod) and hāpuku (groper).

There is a clear trend in the purposes for which authorisations are issued - most are for hui and tangihanga (funerals). Catch levels are currently extremely low - less than 1-2 tonnes per year for most key species.

Management Ideas - Your Feedback

We want your opinion on the management ideas we have listed below. The final strategy could include a mix of these, or others that you tell us about. Tell us what you think, below, and on the form over the page.

Our ideas	Your comments
<p><i>A. Do nothing</i> Keep the status quo - make no changes to support customary practices.</p>	
<p><i>B. Regulations</i> Establish general fisheries regulations to close significant customary fisheries to commercial and/or recreational fishing (or limit their catch through closed seasons or method restrictions). Develop a Code of Practice that commercial fishers will establish commercial closures over areas of significance for customary fishing.</p>	
<p><i>C. Area based recognition and protection</i> Establish mātaītai over areas of special significance for customary fishing. Establish taiāpure over areas of special significance for customary fishing. Establish rāhui (temporary closures) under section 186B of the Fisheries Act 1996 in selected areas (such as nursery areas and/or shellfish reseeding areas) or seasons. Establish tailored local management areas under regulations or special legislation.</p>	
<p><i>D. Education</i> Develop an education programme for the general public (Kaikōura community in particular) on customary rights and area management tools such as mātaītai and taiāpure.</p>	
<p><i>D. Research and monitoring</i> Conduct scientific baseline surveys of newly established mātaītai or taiāpure to assist reserve managers with restoring these fisheries.</p>	

Te Korowai: Kaikoura Coastal Guardians - Feedback Form

Issue: Sustaining Customary Practices

Your management ideas and reasons for them:

Other comments:

Name of individual or group:

I would/would not like (please delete as appropriate) to be kept informed of issues.

The best way to communicate with me is
(choose one or more):

- Email and other electronic communications
- Newsletters
- Issues documents like this one
- Telephone
- Face to face meetings
- Other (specify)

Please return by 1 March 2010 to:

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