



Hauraki Maori Trust Board

STRATEGIC PLAN

FOR THE CUSTOMARY FISHERIES
OF HAURAKI

2002 - 2052

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1. FOREWORD

The customary fisheries of Hauraki are vital to the spiritual, cultural and social well being of Hauraki Iwi and hapu.

The traditional fisheries of Hauraki have been subject to degradation through pollution of our waterways and depletion through overfishing of Tikapa Moana over many years to the point now where harvesting from Tikapa for our customary purposes has become very difficult. The mana of Hauraki suffers when we as a people are unable to demonstrate appropriate hospitality to our guests, visitors and relations through the provision of kaimoana from Tikapa Moana.

The Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act has been instrumental in ensuring that the exclusive fishing resources of Maori are being progressively handed back to Maori. The Resource Management Act is also of assistance in this process of returning resources that are rightfully the property of Maori back into Maori custodianship.

The customary fisheries strategy and associated strategic directions set out in this document represents the response on the part of Hauraki Maori Trust Board to Iwi/hapu concerns about the widespread depletion of our marine resources and the loss of habitat. The Board is of the view that an holistic Hauraki-wide and managed regime is necessary to halt the depletion of our seafood resources. The Board believes that the Fishing (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations provide an appropriate (though not completely perfect) vehicle through which the integrated holistic management and use of our customary fisheries resources can be undertaken in Hauraki.

The Board does not wish for one moment to usurp the role of the Iwi/hapu of Hauraki in the management and use of their customary fisheries. The Board's role will be limited to facilitating the exercise by Iwi/hapu of Hauraki of tino rangatiratanga over their customary fisheries resources.

The Board believes it can best assist Iwi/hapu in protecting and developing their customary fisheries primarily through building and funding an organisational capacity within the Board that is responsive to the needs of Hauraki Iwi/hapu; by raising the awareness of the importance of customary fishing to Hauraki Iwi/hapu through a process of education and empowerment; and seeking public support inside and outside of Hauraki for the kaupapa through effective external relationships.

Through these processes we believe that it will be possible to better secure and promote the customary fishing rights of Hauraki Iwi/hapu within the context of sustainable use of the fisheries resource.

Toko Renata
CHAIRMAN

2. Overview of the Customary Fisheries of Hauraki

The traditional fishery of Hauraki comprise the fisheries of the Waihou River, the Manaia Harbour and the Firth of Thames. These fisheries were at one time abundant teeming as they were with seafood (fish and shellfish) but have been greatly diminished over time by degradation of habitats (through pollution) and depletion through over-fishing.

A profile of Hauraki's key customary fisheries is set out below. The profile is based mainly on qualitative information and includes a brief description of Hauraki's key customary fisheries - species composition, location and abundance as well as key risks to the fishery and other important tribal knowledge of customary fisheries. The profile provides an important context within which the Hauraki Maori Trust Board seeks to promote and develop an Hauraki-wide approach to the management and use of Hauraki's customary fisheries.

Fishery Location	Current Resource Profile
Firth of Thames	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key customary fisheries include tuna, mullet, flounder, snapper, pioke, kahawai, pipi, cockle, and rock oyster ▪ Stock levels for many of these customary species have been in sharp decline for some time with pipi and cockle beds particularly hard-hit by depletion from over-fishing – mussels are the exception to this trend ▪ Main customary fisheries locations [to be completed] ▪ Recent customary harvest levels for the key species [to be completed] ▪ Potential of the stock [to be completed]
Waihou River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key customary fisheries include eel, smelt/inanga, flounder, mullet, kahawai, freshwater cray and mussels ▪ Massive decline in the customary fishery take in the last 40 years with the exceptions being eels, smelt and mullet ▪ Main customary fisheries location [to be completed] ▪ Recent harvest levels for the key species [to be completed] ▪ Potential of the stock [to be completed]
Manaia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key customary fisheries include tuna, mullet, flounder, snapper, kahawai, pipi, cockle and rock oyster ▪ Stock levels for many of these customary species have been in sharp decline for some time with pipi and cockle beds particularly hard-hit by depletion from over-fishing – mussels are the exception to this trend ▪ Main customary fisheries location [to be completed] ▪ Recent harvest levels for the key species [to be completed] ▪ Potential of the stock [to be completed]

3. Vision and Operating Principles

VISION

Hauraki Maori Trust Board's Vision for the customary fisheries of Hauraki is:

For the Iwi and hapu of Hauraki to be able to protect and develop their customary fisheries within a framework of sustainable management and to use their customary fisheries resource to improve the social, cultural and spiritual well-being of individuals of Hauraki.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF HAURAKI MAORI TRUST BOARD

Hauraki MTB is guided by a set of principles that are to be adopted in all of its work on customary fisheries for and on behalf of Hauraki Iwi.

- *To empower the Iwi/hapu of Hauraki in protecting and developing their customary fisheries*
- *To facilitate the development of systems and processes that Iwi/hapu of Hauraki can use in managing their customary fisheries to achieve the development and well-being of the whole person*
- *To provide adequate resources to enable the Iwi/hapu of Hauraki to better protect and develop their customary fisheries*
- *To deliver services in relation to customary fisheries to Hauraki Iwi/hapu on a partnership basis and that this partnership be based on mutual respect*

4. Influences on the Customary Fisheries of Hauraki

The key external and internal factors that will influence the customary fisheries of Hauraki over the next fifty years are:

Key External Factors

- **Political/Legislative**

The capability of Hauraki Iwi to exercise tino rangatiratanga over their customary fisheries will be influenced by the national political environment and the general Treaty strategies of the Government of the day, existing fisheries legislation such as an oceans policy, coastal policies and bio-security policies and fisheries management strategies. The extent to which these policies and strategies take account of and are coordinated at a local fisheries level will affect the ability of Hauraki Iwi to protect and develop their customary fisheries.

- **Geographical**

The customary fisheries of Hauraki are difficult to manage as the fisheries are spread over a large sea area. Adequate resources must be provided to enable Hauraki Iwi to be able to protect and develop their customary fisheries over their fullest extent.

- **Environmental**

Current landuse practices, in particular increasing urbanization, are threatening the customary fisheries habitats in Hauraki. The policies of local and district councils in Hauraki towards land-use and industrial expansion do not adequately take into account the customary fisheries activities of Hauraki Iwi.

- **Other Stakeholders**

The activities of commercial, recreational and amateur fishers can affect the customary fisheries of Hauraki Iwi. Hauraki Iwi will need to promote the importance and function of customary fisheries in to other stakeholders in the fishery.

Key Internal Factors

- **Governance issues within Hauraki**

Although Hauraki Maori Trust Board is empowered by its legislation to represent the interests of Hauraki Iwi on a variety of social and economic matters, not all Iwi want the Board to represent their interests in customary fisheries. This can make it difficult for the Board in advocating on behalf of Iwi on customary fisheries matters.

- **Other Iwi**

The customary fisheries of Hauraki Iwi are being contested by other tribal groups. This will make it difficult for Hauraki Iwi to effectively manage, protect and develop their customary fisheries.

- **Communications**

The general communication strategies between the Board and Iwi are important in building mutual confidence between Hauraki Iwi and the Board on a variety of matters including customary fisheries matters. If Hauraki Iwi have confidence in the Board on general issues, this will enable the Board to advocate effectively on behalf of Hauraki Iwi on customary fisheries.

- **Information**

There is a general lack of historical information about Hauraki's customary fisheries including the status of the fisheries. Information about the customary fisheries has not been collected on a routine or systematic basis. This makes it difficult to develop systems and processes to manage Hauraki's customary fisheries effectively.

- **Fisheries management skills**

There is a shortage of fisheries management skills in Hauraki at the local level. This could limit the capacity and ability of Hauraki Iwi to manage their customary fisheries effectively.

5. Critical Success Factors

The effective management and use of the customary fisheries of Hauraki by Iwi/hapu will require the following:

Management of Hauraki's customary fisheries on a sustainable basis
A robust legal and administrative framework for the management of the customary fisheries of Hauraki
Kaitiaki with the skills and experience to manage the customary fisheries of Hauraki effectively
A robust system for collection/recording of information on Hauraki's customary fisheries resources
Effective relationships with key stakeholders in the fishery
Effective systems for the transmission of customary fisheries knowledge

6. Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The following goals, objectives and strategies for meeting the Vision for Hauraki's customary fisheries have been identified.

The Goals

In carrying out its work on customary fisheries on behalf of the Iwi of Hauraki, the goals that Hauraki Maori Trust Board is seeking to achieve are:

The exercise by Iwi/hapu of Hauraki of tino rangatiratanga over their customary fisheries
An abundant and well-managed customary fishery
To enable the Iwi/hapu of Hauraki to harvest their traditional fisheries for customary purposes
Restore and rebuild tribal knowledge of customary fisheries lore and practice in Hauraki
Widespread public understanding and acceptance of the role of Hauraki's customary fisheries

Objectives and Strategies

The objectives and strategies that will be adopted by Hauraki Maori Trust Board to achieve the goals are:

Objective 1:

Organisational Structure and Effectiveness

Hauraki Maori Trust Board will need to establish the capacity (structures, processes and resources) to be able to assist Hauraki Iwi/hapu to manage and utilise their customary fisheries.

Key Strategies will include:

- Implementation, monitoring and review of the strategic directions for customary fisheries
- Assistance with the implementation of customary fisheries regulations in Hauraki including the appointment of Kaitiaki and a centralised customary permit system
- Develop and administer appropriate support structures for Iwi/hapu in the management of their customary fisheries
- Develop/implement protocols with Hauraki Marine Development Trust for the provision of assistance to the Board and Iwi/hapu on customary fisheries e.g. assistance with harvest of customary requirements and provision of fisheries information for management purposes
- Develop, implement and monitor a disputes resolution system for Hauraki's customary fisheries

Objective 2:

Education and Empowerment

The role and function of customary fisheries management needs to be promoted among the Iwi/hapu of Hauraki so that Hauraki Iwi/hapu are empowered to pursue their interests in customary fisheries.

Key Strategies will include:

- Identify the needs of Hauraki Iwi/hapu in exercising their interests in customary fisheries
- Develop and implement training programmes that will assist Hauraki Iwi/hapu in exercising their customary fisheries
- Develop MoUs with the Ministry of Education to provide education in mainstream schools on Hauraki's customary fisheries
- Produce learning material and resources in relation to Hauraki's customary fisheries

Objective 3:

Research and Information Management

The Iwi/hapu of Hauraki need to develop their research capabilities to better inform Iwi/hapu about the status of their customary fisheries and to recover knowledge about customary fisheries. An information system is required to underpin and support the Iwi/hapu of Hauraki in managing and utilising their customary fisheries.

Key Strategies will include:

- Establish priorities for research into customary fisheries in Hauraki
- Develop and implement a research strategy for customary fisheries in Hauraki
- Develop a robust and user-friendly information collection and management system (e.g. GIS) for the use of Hauraki Iwi/hapu in managing their customary fisheries with appropriate protocols for accessing the system.

Objective 4:

External Relationships

Hauraki Iwi need to establish effective relationships with key external agencies and management groups that influence the ability of Hauraki Iwi/hapu to manage and utilise their customary fisheries.

Key strategies will include:

- Establish MOUs/relationship agreements with NIWA, Fish and Game and other fisheries agencies and organisations
- Develop and maintain a customary presence for Hauraki Iwi/hapu in key forums for the management of fisheries in New Zealand
- Promote Hauraki Iwi/hapu management of Hauraki's customary fisheries in the community through various media and other arrangements

Objective 5:

Monitoring and Compliance

The management framework for the customary fisheries of Hauraki must include a monitoring and compliance system to ensure that the customary fisheries are effectively protected and developed.

Key strategies will include:

- Identify the requirements for effective monitoring of, and compliance with customary fisheries regulations in Hauraki including the establishment of key indicators of effective management of customary fisheries
- Develop and implement a customary fisheries compliance contract in conjunction with Ministry of Fisheries
- Administer and fulfil the compliance contract negotiated with Ministry of Fisheries