

East Otago Taiāpure Management Plan

January 2008

Introduction

1. Background

Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki lodged a Taiāpure application for East Otago in March 1992. The application was lodged on behalf of the Kāti Huirapa whānau of Karitāne. The application was dedicated to the tūpuna of the hapū who had struggled for recognition of rangatiratanga and manaakitanga for more than a century and to their descendants who must implement and guide the Taiāpure.¹

After completing a long and bureaucratic establishment process the East Otago Taiāpure was eventually gazetted in July 1999. The work of the Taiāpure Management Committee over the proceeding years included the compilation of baseline data and the background information that has been used to develop this management plan.

2. Vision for the Taiāpure

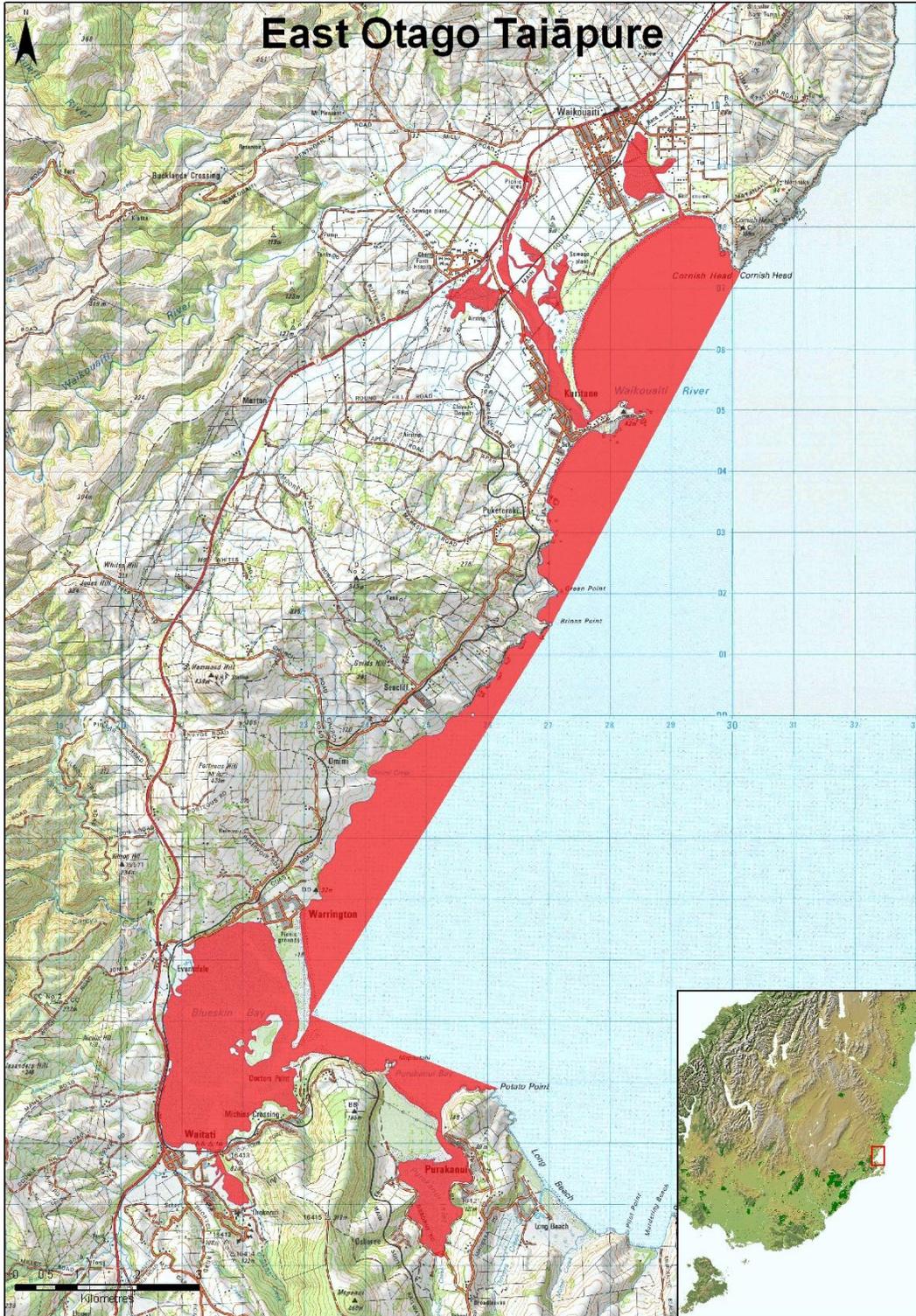
A sustainable, healthy, abundant and accessible fishery inside the Taiāpure that provides for the community's customary, recreational and commercial needs.

3. Area of the Taiāpure

As illustrated in Map 1 below, the Taiāpure encompasses all marine and estuarine waters enclosed by a line commencing at Cornish Head (at 45° 37.28'S and 170° 41.66'E), then proceeding along a straight line in a south-westerly direction to Brinns Point (at 45° 40.32'S and 170° 39.18'E), then along a straight line in a south-westerly direction to a point on Warrington Spit (at 45° 43.73'S and 170° 36.0'E), then along a straight line in an easterly direction to Potato Point (at 45° 44.42'S and 170° 38.3'E), then generally west and north along the mean high water mark to the point of commencement.²

¹ Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki (1992). *East Otago Taiāpure Application*.

² Fisheries (East Otago Taiāpure) Order 1999.



Map 1. Taiāpure Boundaries

Management of the Taiāpure

1. Fishing

Customary Fishing

Mahinga kai refers to the custom of gathering food and natural resources, the practices involved, and the places where they are gathered. The mahinga kai custom underpins Ngāi Tahu culture. It is central to the relationships with places, species and resources, to the cultural, spiritual, social and economic well-being of Ngāi Tahu, and is a vehicle for the transfer of traditional knowledge from generation to generation. Mahinga kai was identified as one of the “nine tall trees” or nine major grievances Ngāi Tahu lodged against the Crown as part of the Ngāi Tahu Claim (WAI 27), such was its important to the tribe.

Along with whakapapa (ancestry), which provides the genealogical connection to resources, mahinga kai explains the traditions of use associated with flora, fauna and resources, from which springs mātauranga (traditional knowledge) relating to these taonga (treasures).

Data from the excavation of midden deposits shows a reliance on manga (barracouta) and hoka (red cod) as the major fish species taken. Hokarari (ling) and hāpuku (groper) are next in importance, followed by a range of species including (pau) wrasse, rāwaru (blue cod) and moki. The pattern which emerges is one of consistent exploitation of a limited range of species by the use of specialised exploitation of a limited range of specialised fishing techniques.

Excavation data on the collection of shellfish shows in general, no heavy reliance on any particular species rather, the full range of species present were taken as desired and according to availability.

A wide variety of shellfish were collected from sandy and rocky shorelines as well as from the estuary. These included pipi, cockle, pāua, cats eye, mussel and oyster.

Huriawa was well situated for the harvesting of a range of environmental zones. Excellent fishing grounds lay in the adjacent bays. The rocky shoreline of the peninsula, together with the two long sandy beaches lying to the north and south provided plentiful kaimoana. The broad mudflat of the estuary, contained sole and flounder among other species. Freshwater species in particular whitebait and eels were in abundance. It is apparent that fish were the main marine resources, being the most economical of time and effort, as well as plentiful in supply.

What emerges is the highly seasonal nature of the various food gathering activities. Food was plentiful during the summer months. Fish could be taken in the warm inshore waters in large numbers. A consequence of the abundance of

food in the summer and its scarcity in winter, is another significant factor, namely the importance of food storage. Techniques for preserving a range of different foods in order to overcome winter shortages were well advanced. A high proportion of the large fish catches of the summer were preserved.

Another point is the high degree of mobility exercised by Ngāi Tahu while exploiting these various resources. It was necessary to range over a wide area in order to take in the different fishing zones of the sea, estuary and inland waterbodies. This is important to understand, when taking into consideration the area covered by the Taiāpure.

The entire fishery within the Taiāpure remains an important mahinga kai for Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

Mahinga Kai Resources of Karitāne/Puketeraki	
<u>Ika</u>	<u>Kai Mātaitai</u>
Maka (barracouta)	Pipi [#]
Hāpuku (groper)	Pāua
Hoka (red cod)	Kina
Hokarari (ling)	Kōura (crayfish)
Rāwaru (blue cod)	Kutai (green mussel)
Pātiki (flatfish)	Tuaki (cockles) [#]
Pawhaiwhakarua (wrasse)	Tuatua [#]
Tuna (eels)	Tio (oysters)
Moki	
Pau (Wrasse)	
Inaka (whitebait)	<u>Seaweed</u>
Kanakana	Karengo (sea lettuce)*
<u>Marine Mammals</u>	
Kekeno (NZ fur seal) ^{+x}	

* Non commercial species under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

+ Protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978

x Taonga species under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Customary Fisheries “Shellfish Species” under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Fisheries and coastal resources are finite and often irreplaceable. They must be protected and managed with respect and care if New Zealanders are to benefit from them today without compromising the ability of future generations to also benefit from them.

The traditional Māori conservation ethic is most widely understood by the term “rāhui”, a temporary protection of a food supply. Rāhui were used traditionally to restore the health of fisheries resources. The Taiāpure regulations will be used in much the same way – using modern law to give effect to ancient lore.

The Māori approach brings with it a sense of human closeness and connectedness in terms of mutual well being – man and environment, tangata and whenua.

Recreational Fishing

Recreational fishing is an important activity for the local communities at Waitati, Warrington, Karitāne and Waikouāiti and the Taiāpure is accessed regularly by recreational fishers from Dunedin and the Otago region generally. Recreational fishers regularly harvest tuaki, pāua, kina, kōura, pipi, whitebait and flatfish from the Taiāpure area.

Commercial fishing

The Taiāpure area is an important commercial fishery for certain key species, namely, tuaki (cockles), pāua and kōura (crayfish).

Issues:

- Over fishing that has led to depleted fish stocks
- Access to abundant supplies of healthy fisheries resources
- Allowing kaumatua (senior citizens) the opportunity to harvest kaimoana
- Allowing areas for tamariki (children) to learn more about marine ecology and the principles of sustainability
- Special permits
- Research conducted within the Taiāpure
- Poaching and general fisheries compliance and enforcement

Objectives:

- 1.1 To ensure customary, recreational and commercial fishers have access to and use of abundant supplies of fisheries resources.
- 1.2 To actively promote the use of traditional tikanga (customs) and kawa (protocols) such as rāhui (temporary closures) through the management regulations for the Taiāpure (using 'lore' to create the 'law').

Actions:

The Taiāpure Management Committee will:

- 1a Ensure fishers (including kaumatua and tamariki) have access to and use of an abundant supply of healthy fisheries resources from the Taiāpure by establishing Taiāpure regulations if and when appropriate;
- 1b Assess the impact of special permit applications, relating to the Taiāpure area;
- 1c Support research and monitoring within the Taiāpure that provides baseline information upon which to make sound decisions or where it promotes the protection of fisheries resources.

[2s]

In particular, the Taiāpure Management Committee will support research establishing population estimates for tuaki (cockles), kōura (rock lobster) and pāua in order to assess the need for Taiāpure regulations;

- 1d Request to be consulted on all research undertaken in the Taiāpure – but in particular research conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries, the Department of Conservation, the Otago Regional Council, Universities and Crown Research Institutes such as NIWA or ESR.

As a condition of supporting research undertaken in the Taiāpure, the Taiāpure Management Committee will request a copy of the research report and request that the findings of the research be presented to the Taiāpure Management Committee;

- 1e Work with research providers to monitor commercial and recreational fishing within the Taiāpure in order to assess the need for Taiāpure regulations;

- 1f Support the Ministry of Fisheries compliance staff (or Department of Conservation Rangers acting as Honorary Fishery Officers) where possible, with their compliance duties. These compliance duties include:

- (a) Notifying the draft regulations for the Taiāpure in local newspapers (including the Otago Daily Times);
- (b) Developing an education pamphlet for fishers and other users of the Taiāpure detailing the Taiāpure regulations and the basis for them;
- (c) Erecting signs detailing the boundaries and relevant regulations of the Taiāpure;
- (d) Developing an educational poster to be erected at appropriate locations;
- (e) The warranting of Honorary Fisheries Officers to assist compliance and enforcement of the Taiāpure regulations.

[Note: Enforcement of the Taiāpure regulations is the exclusive responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries];

- 1g Work with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to record, maintain and disseminate information through the tribal GIS database as appropriate.

The Taiāpure Management Committee may:

- 1h Initiate active reseedling programmes within the Taiāpure;

[2v]

- 1i Conduct their own monitoring of fisheries resources.

2. Health of the environment

It is fundamental to the success of the Taiāpure that all fisheries resources within it are fit for human consumption. Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) is essentially aimed at the protection of the mauri (life supporting capacity) of a resource or area. Mauri is a value that can be represented by qualities of health, abundance, vitality, the unpolluted and the presence of indigenous flora and fauna.³

The protection of mauri is enhanced through the gathering of food and so this management plan has been written to emphasise the importance of this activity. The use of fisheries resources ensures the matauranga (local knowledge) of how to protect the mauri of these resources is passed on from one generation to the next.

Over recent decades, the mauri of the Taiāpure area has been degraded by the discharging of waste water into the Taiāpure and by the decreasing availability of important mahinga kai species, such as pāua and crayfish, through over-fishing.⁴

Fisheries habitat must also be protected in order to ensure the life-supporting essence of the Taiāpure is maintained. In accordance with the environmental principles of the Fisheries Act, the Taiāpure Management Committee shall take into account the protection of habitat of particular significance for fisheries management.

Issues:

- Marine Pollution/decline in the health of mahinga kai from;⁵
 - Discharge of human effluent (untreated and Grade A and B treated) from ships
 - Point-source discharge of human effluent from land (including Seacliffs, Purakaunui, Warrington and Waikouaiti)
 - Other forms of point-source discharge
 - Non-point source pollution from inappropriate land management (such as fertiliser runoff leading to the eutrophication of Mataīnaka or leaching from Waikouaiti landfill)
 - Discharge of waste products from processed fisheries resources
 - Oil/chemical spills
 - Hull cleaning where toxic or noxious substances enter the marine environment
 - Dumping of rubbish and debris from ships
 - Mining, exploration and prospecting

³ Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (1999) *Freshwater Policy Statement* and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Department of Conservation (2005). *Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) Joint Management Plan – December 2005*.

⁴ Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki (1992). *East Otago Taiāpure Application*.

⁵ Kāi Tahu ki Otago (2005). *Natural Resources Management Plan*.

- Bioinvasion of foreign organisms, including the following issues;
 - Hull cleaning where foreign or unwanted organisms enter the marine environment
 - Reseeding of shellfish
- Impact on habitats of significance for fisheries management (such as nursery areas and spawning grounds) from;
 - Inappropriate fishing methods/fishing activity
 - Inappropriate placement of structures and moorings
 - Inappropriate placement of marine farms
 - Poor riparian management (such as direct impacts on white spawning areas or sedimentation of cockle beds from poor forestry and farming operations)
- Use of bulk harvesting methods (such as set-netting) leading to bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds
- Over-allocation of water in rivers and streams that feed into the Taiāpure
- Research and monitoring undertaken within the Taiāpure
- The importance of involving the local Karitāne community and other community-based groups⁶

Objectives:

- 2.1 To ensure that the adverse impacts of human activities on the marine environment, nursery areas, spawning grounds, fisheries habitat and associated and dependant species are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 2.2 To ensure all fisheries resources from the Taiāpure are fit for human consumption.

Actions:

The Taiāpure Management Committee will work with Otago Regional Council to:

- 2a Promote effective communications discouraging the discharge of sewage from ships into the waters of the Taiāpure;
- 2b Ensure compliance with the Marine Pollution Regulations provision that prevents raw sewage from being discharged from ships within 500 meters of shore;
- 2c Encourage the prohibition of the point source discharge of human effluent from land into the Taiāpure;
- 2d Encourage the prohibition of other forms of point-source discharge from land into the Taiāpure;

⁶ Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki (1992). *East Otago Taiāpure Application*.

- 2e Encourage the prohibition of non-point source pollution from inappropriate land management (including encouraging planting or protection of riparian areas on farms or in forestry operations and enforcement of current consent conditions);
- 2f Ensure aquaculture management areas are appropriately located within the Taiāpure and that any adverse effects on fisheries habitat from this activity are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

The Taiāpure Management Committee may work with Otago Regional Council to:

- 2g Avoid oil and chemical spills within the Taiāpure and to address the clean up of such spills within the Taiāpure should they occur.

[Note: The Maritime Safety Authority has a defined role in such matters];

- 2h Ensure users comply with the provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan pertaining to the cleaning of ships hulls;
- 2i Promote effective communications with users to ensure they comply with the Marine Pollution Regulation and the provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan prohibiting the discharge of rubbish and debris within the Taiāpure;
- 2j Ensure the appropriate placement of structures and moorings within the Taiāpure;
- 2k Address water abstraction from rivers and streams that feed into the Taiāpure.

The Taiāpure Management Committee will work with Biosecurity NZ (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) to:

- 2l Support pre-border controls (surveillance, monitoring and identification) in order to help prevent invasion of unwanted marine organisms within the Taiāpure;
- 2m Support the eradication or management of pest species that are found to inhabit the Taiāpure.

The Taiāpure Management Committee will:

- 2n Support and encourage rubbish clean-up initiatives within the Taiāpure;
- 2o Work with the Waikouaiti Estuary/Rivercare Group to encourage the prohibition of point source and non-point source pollution affecting the

Waikouaiti River and Mataīnaka Lagoon and to address riparian management issues affecting whitebait spawning areas;

- 2p Promote the use of locally sourced shellfish for any reseeding programmes inside the Taiāpure;
- 2q Recommend the establishment of a regulation restricting the use of set-nets (commercial and non-commercial) within the Taiāpure, in order to avoid the bycatch of seabirds and/or marine mammals;
- 2r Recommend the establishment of regulations to further address bycatch issues within the Taiāpure if and when appropriate.
- [1c] 2s Support research and monitoring that promotes the protection of the environmental health of the Taiāpure.
- 2t Encourage the active involvement of kaumatua and the local Karitāne community (including senior citizens and tamariki) and other community-based groups (such as the Waikouaiti Estuary/Rivercare Group) in the management of the Taiāpure.

The Taiāpure Management Committee may:

- 2u Recommend the establishment of regulations to protect areas of habitat that are significant for fisheries management (eg, nursery areas) if and when appropriate;
- [1i] 2v Conduct their own monitoring to assess the health of the Taiāpure.

Implementation and Review

1. Implementation

Implementation of the plan falls under two main headings:

Fisheries Management Actions

The fisheries management matters that the Taiāpure Management Committee can address directly under their mandate within the Fisheries Act 1996. This will of course be carried out primarily through the establishment of regulations.

Advocacy/Relationship Actions

The advocacy and communication that must be carried out to develop the necessary relationships with central and local Government Agencies, the local community and Crown Research Institutions that will be required to achieve the objectives within the plan, in particular those that do not fall within the legislative responsibilities of the Fisheries Act 1996.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring

The Taiāpure Management Committee will monitor the plan against the objectives that have been compiled in the Management Section. Monitoring will assess the extent to which each of the objectives are being achieved.

Reporting

The Taiāpure Management Committee will report on the performance of the plan. Reporting will include regular updates for the local Karitāne Community and interested stakeholders.

3. Review

The Taiāpure Management Committee may at any time decide to initiate a review and/or amendment, in whole or in part, of the plan as required – as a result of research findings or monitoring for example.

The plan will be fully reviewed within five years after approval by the Taiāpure Management Committee.