



Draft North Island West Coast Finfish Fisheries Plan

A plan to maintain and enhance our unique west coast fisheries



Front cover Photos:
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"We are all descended from Papatūānuku; she is our kaitiaki and we in turn are hers" Marsden
1992

He Karakia¹

***Tau mai ko te mauri
Ko te mauri o Ranginui ki runga
Ko te mauri o Papatūānuku ki raro
Ko te mauri o Tangaroa-whaiariki e
hora nei!***

***Whakarongo! Titiro!
Ka hikimata te tapuwae o Tangaroa-
whaiariki
Ka whaimata te tapuwae o
Tangaroa-whaiariki
Ka teretere te tapuwae o Tangaroa-
whaiariki
Ka whakawhiti atu e Tangaroa-
whaiariki
Ki Te Moana Tapokopoko a Tāwhaki!
Tangaroa! Ka haruru! Ka haruru!***

Here rests the life-force
The life-force of Ranginui, the sky father
above
The life-force of Papatuanuku, the earth
mother below
The life-force of Tangaroa, guardian of all
seas!

Now listen! Now look!
As the eager, bounding strides of
Tangaroa
Cross relentlessly to and fro
Across the rough, turbulent ocean of
Tāwhaki
Tangaroa! Resound! Rumble!

He Mihi

***Tēnā tātou kātoa e whai nei i ngā tapuwae o Tangaroa-whaiariki me ōna tini me ōna
mano. Heoi ano te mihi atu ki te Kaihanga o Ngā Mea Katoa. Te Tīmatanga me te
Mutunga. Rātou ki a rātou, tātou ki a tātou. Tihēwa mauri ora!***

Greetings to those who follow in the footsteps of Tangaroa and his myriad descendants of the sea. We acknowledge the Great Creator of all things, the beginning and the end. We farewell those who have passed on to the spirit world. To those who remain, we rejoice in the breath of life!

¹ Na Te Hopehuia Hakaraia, Raukawa ki te Tonga/Te Arawa. (Adapted from Nga Moteatea, Part 11, V2, Pg 154)

A General Perspective on the Maori World View

Māori as a group cannot be defined in generalities due to their autonomy and uniqueness as smaller social bodies, be they whānau, hapū or iwi. There are, however, high level concepts and ideals that may be universally held by all Māori, and that guide the individual management, governance, and operation of these smaller social structures. These high level concepts stem from Māori belief systems, including those originating from Creation traditions, and include universally valued concepts that have not –and possibly can not be – adequately conveyed by singular English 'equivalent terms' that have been assigned to them in the past.

Concepts such as whakapapa, tapu, mana, mauri, tino rangatiratanga manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga are paramount to the traditional governance of customary resources, and if we are to give power to customary management practices in contemporary situations and legislation, efforts must be made to understand and integrate these and other concepts in a comprehensive fashion.

Māori customary fishing rights have both a commercial and non commercial component. The customary fishing rights pertain not only to the use of the fisheries but also the management of the resources. While practices may differ between different Iwi and Hapū customary fisheries is always actively managed by individuals known as kaitiaki or guardians.

With regards to the NIWC Finfish Fisheries plan tangata whenua believe that all people and sectors have access to the fisheries, but at certain times tangata whenua reserve its customary rights under the Treaty of Waitangi to withdraw this access. At certain times may include sustainability issues, protection, health and safety, rāhui, and other environmental concerns.

FOREWORD

Finfish fisheries on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island are extremely valuable to the region and to the country.

Whether it's the manaaki² that comes with providing fresh snapper for the marae, the thrill of landing a prize kingfish or snapper, the success of selling a bin of trevally at the fish market or the joy at seeing swirling schools of baitfish when diving, finfish fisheries are close to the heart of many of the people who live or visit the west coast.

We need to make sure that our valuable west coast finfish fisheries are managed in an environmentally sustainable way to protect and safeguard these taonga³. We also need to make sure everyone gets best value from these resources.

A key to getting best value for our fisheries is to get the people who actually use and value these resources to assist in managing them effectively.

To this end, the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) together with tangata whenua⁴ and stakeholders are developing Fisheries Plans. Fisheries Plans will make management more transparent and accountable by:

- setting out objectives;
- describing how these objectives will be achieved;
- identifying what roles we all have to play; and
- showing how levels of achievement will be monitored.

Doing these things will bring more certainty for everybody involved in fisheries management.

A Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (the Advisory Group), made up of a variety of people who use and value finfish fisheries on the west coast of the North Island, has developed a Fisheries Plan for the fishery. The plan includes finfish fisheries that are of great importance to all New Zealanders in the north west, including snapper, kingfish, tarakihi, grey mullet, flounder, red gurnard, trevally and kahawai.

Having completed an initial draft of the plan, the Advisory Group now wishes to discuss and obtain comments on its proposals with those closely involved in North Island West Coast finfish fisheries, before releasing the draft plan for wider consultation. We welcome your suggestions and input to ensure this plan is the best it can be.

North Island West Coast Finfish Plan Advisory Group

May 2009



² Manaaki – the act of hospitality

³ Taonga – treasure

⁴ Tangata whenua – the original people of the land

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Crown has an obligation to Maori under the Treaty of Waitangi, which guarantees “the full, exclusive and undisturbed possession” of their fisheries. In this Fisheries Plan the partnership involves a number of customary forums, as well as iwi⁵ and hapu⁶ and the Crown.

The North Island West Coast (NIWC) finfish fisheries span a large area from North Cape at the top of the North Island, all the way to Porirua Harbour in the south.

Fisheries include snapper, kingfish, tarakihi, grey mullet, flounder, red gurnard, trevally and kahawai amongst others. These stocks support valuable customary, recreational and commercial fisheries that range from small-scale harbour fisheries using set-nets to large trawling operations on the coast. The fisheries are a vital component of the west coast ecosystem, which encompasses the ocean, the inland waterways, freshwater streams and surrounding land. In accordance with the concept of kaitiakitanga⁷, sustainable management of fisheries requires not just the fish be managed but all aspects of the ecosystem that can impact on fisheries must be managed for sustainability. This includes recognising the non-extractive or intrinsic values of the ecosystem. The size and diversity of the ecosystem and the variety of fish stocks involved means the sustainable management of the resources is very complex, but something that is important to all New Zealanders.

1.1 The Draft NIWC Finfish Plan

A Fisheries Plan Advisory Group (Advisory Group) comprising tangata whenua, stakeholders and MFish (Appendix 2) met from February 2008 to March 2009 to work cooperatively together to ensure we are doing all we can to harvest and manage the fishery for the future. This plan is a result of the group’s efforts.

The West Coast Finfish Plan:

- Sets out the long-term, high-level goals for NIWC finfish fisheries
- Identifies current issues in the fishery affecting our ability to achieve the goals
- Sets short-medium term objectives to address current issues
- Proposes new tools and services to ensure objectives are met
- Includes:
 - A 5-year Implementation Plan to progress tools and services proposed
 - A Monitoring and Review Plan to measure performance against goals and objectives, and to review objectives, tools and services at appropriate intervals.

1.2 Scope of the NIWC Finfish Plan

The plan covers species caught in inshore waters and harbours along the whole west coast of the North Island (Map 1).

This first version is not a comprehensive plan to address all stocks and issues. Stocks and issues included in this plan are those which tangata whenua, stakeholders & MFish have identified as important at this time. Future versions of the plan will address further stocks and issues if identified as a priority.

⁵ Iwi – Tribe - is a Māori tribe descended from a common named ancestor or ancestors, and is usually comprised of a number of hapū.

⁶ Hapu - a sub-tribe; most iwi are comprised of two or more hapū, although a number of smaller iwi have marae but no hapū.

⁷ Kaitiakitanga – guardianship: the act of protecting, managing and utilising nature’s resources.



Map 1: The west coast of the North Island

1.3 Status of the Plan

This NIWC Finfish Plan sets out high-level goals and objectives that:

- Will be taken into account by MFish when providing advice to the Minister of Fisheries on matters that affect west coast finfish fisheries; and
- Will be taken into account by the Minister of Fisheries when making decisions that affect west coast finfish fisheries (if approved under section 11A of the Fisheries Act 1996).

The Plan also requests management tools and services that will:

- Guide MFish management activity in relation to the fishery
- Guide management activity undertaken by the Advisory Group and its members.

Some of the requested tools and services may require Ministerial approval. These tools and services will only be implemented if, after consultation and consideration of all statutory obligations, the Minister of Fisheries is satisfied that implementation meets the purposes and principles of the Fisheries Act 1996 (Fisheries Act).

This Plan includes a timetabled Implementation Plan of the requested tools and services. The ability to undertake actions and meet timeframes is subject to available resources, including, for example, the availability of MFish resources to write and consult on regulatory proposals or the availability of stakeholder resources to develop an education tool. Annual performance against the Implementation Plan will be monitored by the Advisory Group and will be reported on in an Annual Report.

Performance against the goals and objectives set out in this Plan will also be monitored and reported on. The Plan also will be updated and reviewed at appropriate intervals.



FISHERY GOALS

"What do we want from the NIWC finfish fishery?"

2.1 High-level Fishery Goals

The Advisory Group has drafted four goals to guide the management of our NIWC finfish fisheries. These goals are consistent with the purposes and principles of fisheries legislation, and government objectives for fisheries.

The high-level fishery goals:

NIWC finfish fisheries are.....	
1	sustainable today and in the future
2	managed inclusively
3	used and valued for the wellbeing of all
4	part of a healthy marine environment

Underpinning each of these goals is the recognition of, and provision for kaitiakitanga in all aspects of the plan's development and implementation.

2.2 What do the goals mean?

The Advisory Group has identified the following principles to provide greater insight into what each goal means:

For Goal 1 - NIWC finfish fisheries are sustainable today and in the future:

- Harvest levels and fishing practices ensure the sustainability of our fisheries
- The best information is used when making decisions – this may include a combination of anecdotal information, mātauranga māori⁸ and scientific information from research projects.

For Goal 2 - NIWC finfish fisheries are managed inclusively:

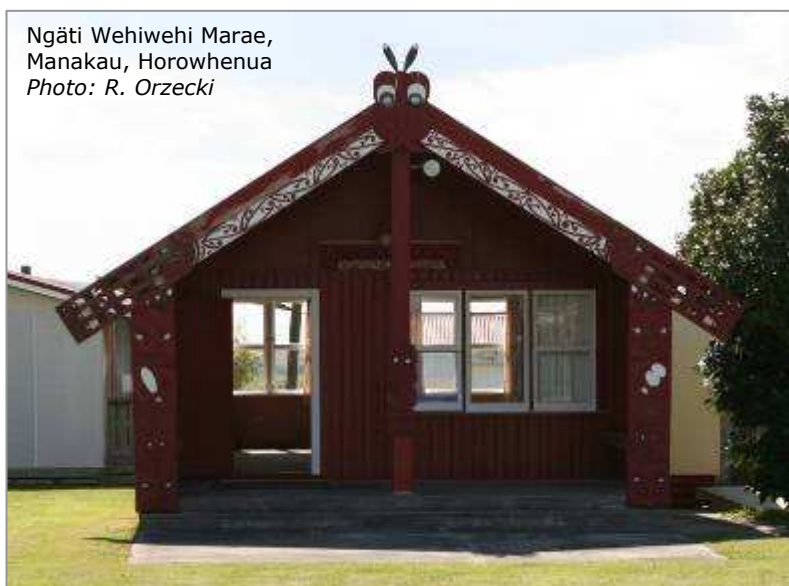
- Tangata whenua, communities and stakeholders are actively involved in managing their local fisheries
- People can be involved in the decisions that are made about their fisheries
- Information is shared amongst all users and managers of the fishery.

For Goal 3 - NIWC finfish fisheries are used and valued for the wellbeing of all:

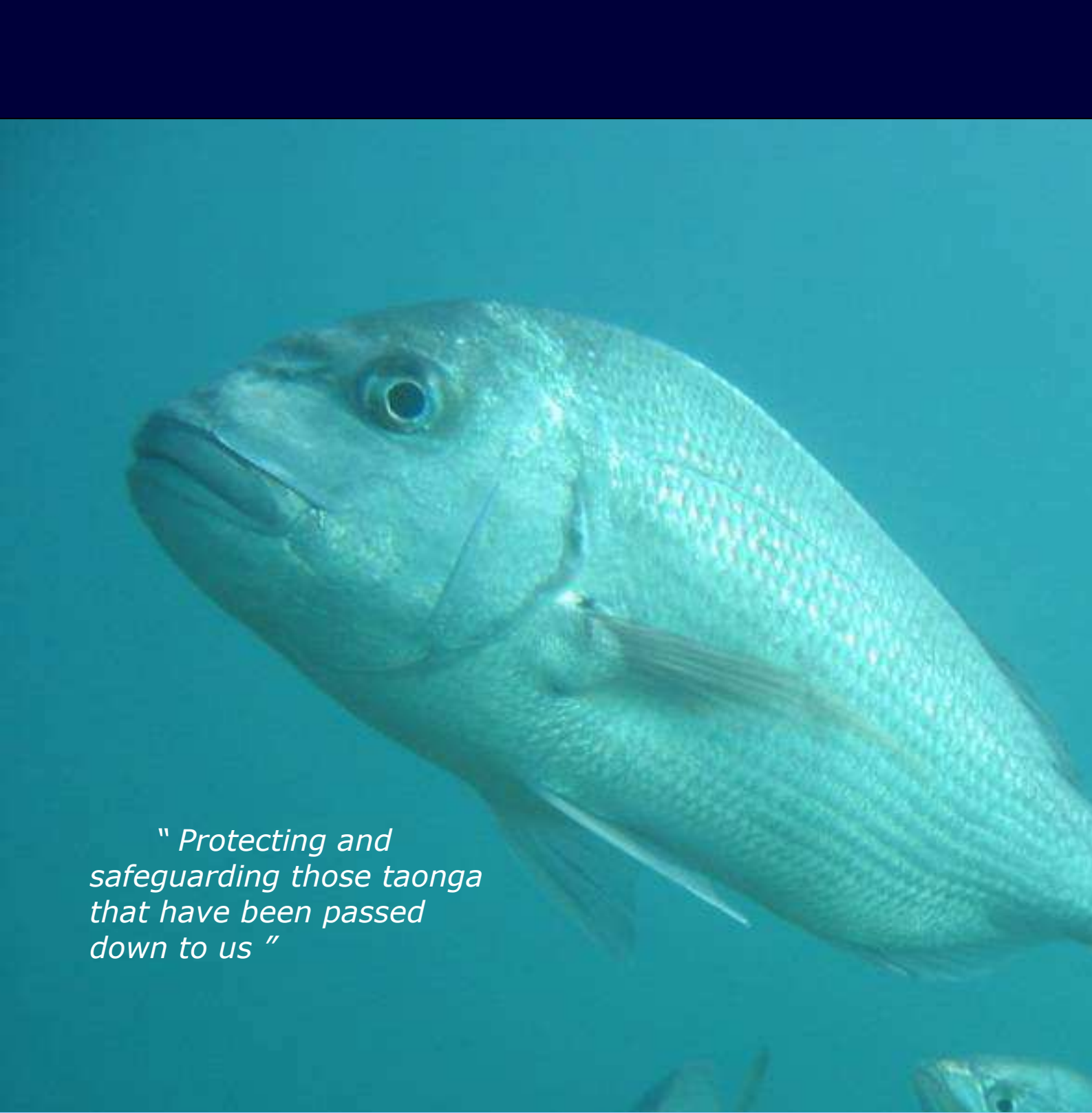
- Everyone understands and respects each others' right to access the fishery, and each others' values associated with the fishery and the aquatic environment
- Everyone understands and complies with the rules and regulations

For Goal 4 - NIWC finfish fisheries are part of a healthy marine environment:

- The impacts of fishing on the environment are minimised
- Any adverse impacts of other activities on the fishery are minimised
- Tangata whenua, communities and agencies throughout the west coast environment integrate their work and share their knowledge .



⁸ Mātauranga māori – Māori knowledge



*" Protecting and
safeguarding those taonga
that have been passed
down to us "*

Sustainability

NIWC FINFISH FISHERIES ARE SUSTAINABLE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE