



MANIAPOTO
MĀORI TRUST BOARD

HE MAHERE IKA

MANIAPOTO UPPER WAIPĀ RIVER
FISHERIES PLAN 2015

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Ko te wehi ki te Atua, nāna kē ngā mea katoa,
Ka whakahōnoretia te Kīngi Tuheitia, tae noa ki te Whare Kāhui Ariki whānui
tonu, pai mārire

Ka huri ki a rātou kua riro kei tua o te ārai, haere, haere, hoki atu rā
Kei te awa o Waipā, e rere iho mai rā; kei te mana tuku iho o Waiwaia, tū mai
rā, whanake ake, whanake ake!

Ki a tātou ki ōna pekanga, ki ōna tahataha, kia mau, kia ū! Tēnā tātou katoa

For many, many years, the degradation and deterioration of the Waipā River has been a source of distress for the people of Maniapoto. The river has been a main source of kai and previously plentiful with inanga (whitebait), tuna (eel), koura (freshwater crayfish) and watercress, to name but a few.

Those times of abundance of fish and kai in the river have now gone by. The pollution and degradation of the Waipā River has resulted in declining fisheries and other food sources. The quality of the water in the river has changed, but the commitment of the Maniapoto people has not. Maniapoto have a deep felt obligation to restore, maintain and protect the quality and integrity of the waters that flow into and form part of the Waipā River for present and future generations and the care and protection of te mana tuku iho o Waiwaia.

It is this inherent obligation of the river kaitiaki that has driven the development of the Maniapoto Fisheries Plan.

I would like to acknowledge the kaitiaki and members of the Maniapoto Fisheries Reference Group:

Gabrielle Morgan, Eddie Neha, Dr Karen Fisher, Tongaporutu Neha, Clarrie Tapara, Dr Daniel Hikuroa, Peter Stockman, Kylie Bryant, George Searancke and Brendon Neha for their passion, aroha, connection and commitment to the development of this plan.

Many thanks to Jo Kukutai and Erina Watene-Rawiri for facilitating the Maniapoto Fisheries Reference Group workshops and writing the plan. Thanks are also extended to Nick Manukau, Taroi Rawiri and Dr Cindy Baker for sharing their expertise and advice. Thanks also to Dr Naomi Simmonds for independently reviewing the plan. I am also grateful to our wider Maniapoto whanau who provided feedback and input into the plan.

The Maniapoto Fisheries Plan was supported by funding from the Waikato River Clean Up Trust (WRCUT) and the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), and I thank you for your support.

Nāku noa, nā
R. Tiwha Bell
Chairman

FOREWORD

I have lived along the awa, all my life, it has quenched my thirst when I was thirsty, it has cooled me in the hot summer months, and it has nourished me with the food sources within. Truly a taonga from my father's, father's time to my children's, children's time.

I was privileged to be a part of the Fish Reference Group and the journey taken to develop this plan. I acknowledge the work of those before us, and now we have left a foot print in the sand of kaitiakitanga for those still to come.

I'd like to acknowledge the Fisheries Reference Group, the whānau of Te Keeti, Te Whare Tūpuna Parewaeono where ngā Kōrero took place, and all of you who have participated in developing the Fisheries Plan.

Clarrie Tapara
Fisheries Reference Group
(Rereamanu Marae, Hauāuru ki Uta Regional Management Committee,
Maniapoto Māori Trust Board)

PART 1.0 - INTRODUCTION

The Maniapoto Upper Waipā Fisheries Plan was prepared on behalf of the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board by the Maniapoto Fisheries Reference Group. The Maniapoto Fisheries Reference Group held a series of intensive workshops at both Te Keeti and Taarewaanga Marae in Ōtorohanga to develop the plan.

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For the avoidance of doubt:

- For the purposes of the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012, this plan is an environmental plan.
- For the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991, this plan is a planning document recognised by the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board in its capacity as an iwi authority.

The plan provides for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the fisheries resources of the Waipā River catchment.

To Maniapoto, the Waipā River is a single indivisible entity that flows from Pekepeke to its confluence with the Waikato River and includes its waters, banks, bed (including all minerals under it) and its streams, waterways, tributaries, lakes, fisheries, vegetation, floodplains, wetlands, islands, springs, geothermal springs, water column, airspace and substratum as well as its metaphysical elements with its own mauri.

Waiwaia is the spiritual guardian of the Waipā River and the importance of Waiwaia to Maniapoto is boundless. The Waipā River, through Waiwaia, provides for its people the necessary instruments of life.

The Waipā River, its tributaries, wetlands and springs are interwoven into the fabric of the Maniapoto people and their identity, tikanga, reo and wellbeing. This sense of wellbeing and connectedness to the awa is reflected in Reference Group member, George Searancke's statement:

“Remembering my growing up days connecting with Te Awa Waipā was one of sheer joy. Those were times when we swam in it, washed in it, drank & fished it. During the long summer months, when we heard the Auckland/Wellington train whistle, it was 7 o'clock, time to head home for kai. When my koroua, uncle Wehi readied his scrim net, on mānuka poles, we'll be off to gather inanga, a billy full every time.

We would launch ourselves below the old Red Bridge, then, at the end of Te Kawa St. & fish all the way to Taarewaanga. Have a quick feed with Aunty Wiki & Uncle Waha, take the rest home. The old fulla & I would set his hīnaki at the outfall of Lake, the butcher's slaughter house and a full net was always the case.

Old Wi Papara, would bring us a sackful of Piharau during their run, caught in the Moakurua River an important tributary of Waipā...

George Searancke
Fisheries Reference Group

This connectedness is intergenerational as highlighted in the statement below from Gabrielle Morgan (Te Keeti Marae).

“I've lived on the Waipā River for over 50 years and in that time I've walked this awa with my great grandparents, my grandparents, my parents, my tamariki and my mokopuna and I tell them all the stories that were told to me.

My mokopuna can't see what I saw way back then, they can't imagine how pristine and clear the awa was, and how sweet the air smelled and how much kai it provided. It is exciting to know that maybe in my life time I can walk this awa with their tamariki and they will see for themselves where I have come from.”

Gabrielle Morgan
Fisheries Reference Group

Maniapoto are driven to protect the river for future generations, but to also look to the past to ensure the wisdom and knowledge passed from tūpuna is retained as outlined in a statement by Eddie Neha (Taarewaanga Marae):

“It was a privilege to catch the tail end of our awa “hey day” and an honour to be told the stories of Taarewaanga, Haerehuka, Koura Pirau and their connection to the Waipā and its kaitiaki. I look forward to a rejuvenated cleaner Waipā and my tamariki, mokopuna building a new “hey day” and enjoying the mātauranga and kaitiakitanga of the Waipā River and its kaitiaki.”

Eddie Neha Fisheries
Reference Group

Freshwater fish, including but not limited to Tuna, Piharau, and Kanae were significant to the traditional Maniapoto lifestyles and knowledge was handed down from generation to generation.

The fisheries objectives in this plan encompass:

- Rangatiratanga
- Kaitiakitanga
- Hononga and
- Mātauranga

“Remembering my growing up days connecting with Te Awa Waipā was one of sheer joy”

“Those were times when we swam in it, washed in it, drank, & fished it. During the long summer months, when we heard the Auckland/Wellington train whistle, it was 7 o'clock, time to head home for kai.”

PART 2.0 - CONCEPTUAL MĀTAURANGA FRAMEWORK FOR FISHERIES PLAN

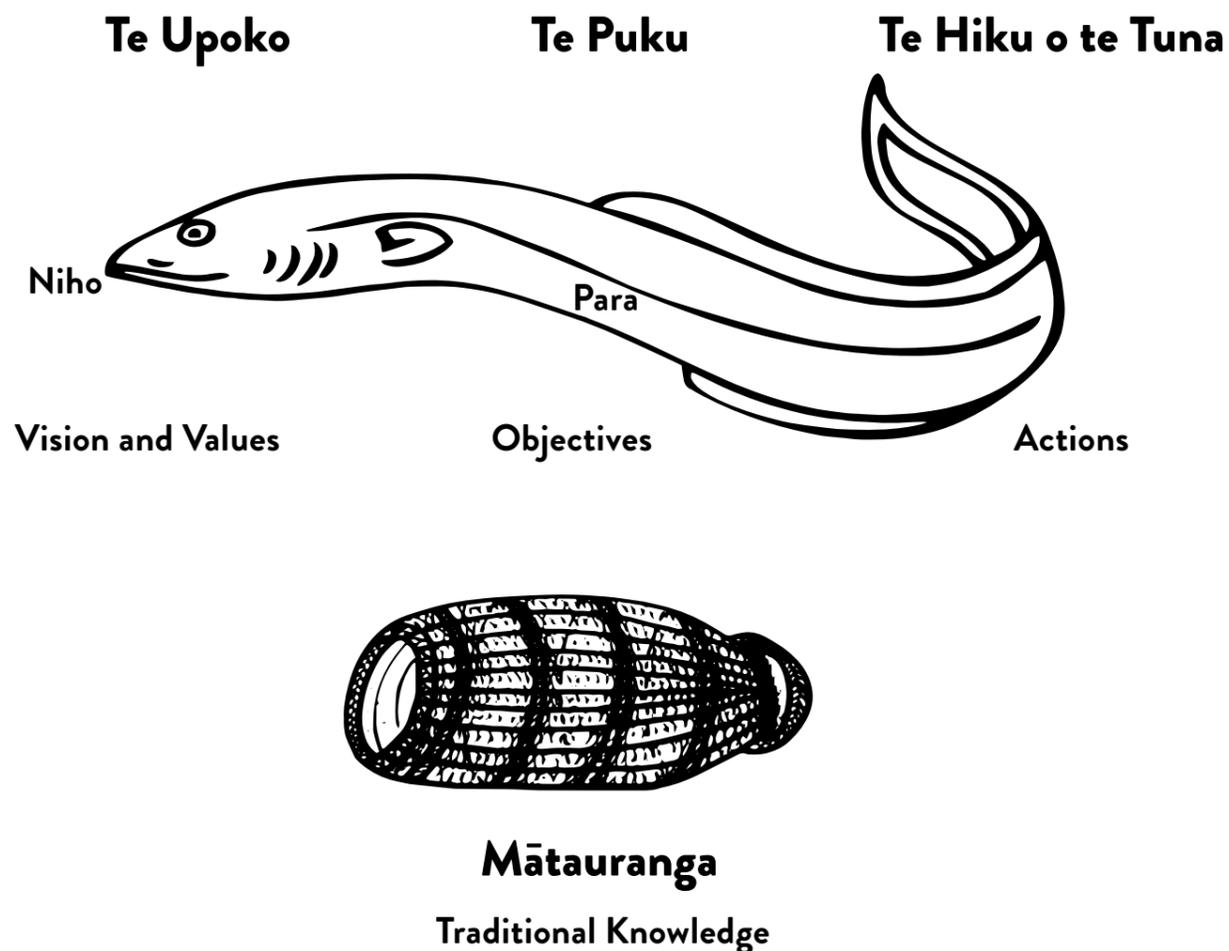
2.1 TE TUNA

The following Mātauranga Framework (Figure 1.) was developed by the Fisheries Reference Group as a conceptual diagram for the Fisheries Plan.

In the Maniapoto rohe Tuna was very significant, the tūpuna Maniapoto himself had a pet Tuna when he lived in Te Ana-Ureure. Tuna was a primary food source for many generations. Pā tuna also known as Rauiri (eel weir), Whakamate, Awakeri (eel trench/canal)

were once plentiful along the rivers and streams of Maniapoto (e.g. Puniu and Waipā River Catchments. (Maniapoto, 1998).

In the conceptual diagram, parts of the Tuna are labelled (Te Upoko, Te Puku, Te Hiku, Niho and Para) these parts of the Tuna represent different parts of the plan. The Hīnaki also represents a section in the plan. These sections are further outlined on page 9.



“In the Maniapoto rohe Tuna was very significant, the tūpuna Maniapoto himself had a pet Tuna when he lived in Te Ana-Ureure. Tuna was a primary food source for many generations.”

TE UPOKO O TE TUNA

The Upoko (head) of the Tuna represents the “Vision” for the plan. In the head region of the Tuna are the eyes, the brain and the beginning of the lateral line which guide the Tuna in terms of its direction forward.

NIHO O TE TUNA

The Niho (Teeth) represents the legislation, or “Operating Context” in which the plan operates.



TE PARA O TE TUNA

The Para (mucus/slime) coats the Tuna, and has a very important protective function, without it the Tuna will die. For the plan the Para is representative of the “Principles and Values” for the plan.



TE PUKU O TE TUNA

The Puku (Stomach) is representative of the guts or the “Objectives” for the plan.



TE HIKU O TE TUNA

The Hiku (Tail) of the Tuna is used for movement. The Hiku is representative of the “Actions and Direction” required to achieve the objectives for the plan.

HĪNAKI

The Hīnaki represents all knowledge of the fishery (Mātauranga Maniapoto and science).

PART 3.0 - TE UPOKO O TE TUNA

3.1 VISION

The responsibility of Kaitiakitanga has been handed down to us by our Tūpuna, we have an inherent obligation to protect, use and manage our land, water resources as they did before us, and to pass on our mātauranga, traditional practices and values to our future generations.

Our vision is to restore and maintain the quality and integrity of the waters that flow into and form part of the Waipa River for present and future generations and the care and protection of the mana tuku iho o Waiwaia.



PART 4.0 - TE PARA O TE TUNA

4.1 PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The following principles and values guide the actions and management objectives developed for this plan

- Rangatiratanga
- Kaitiakitanga
- Hononga
- Kotahitanga
- Te Mana Tuku Iho o Waiwaia
- Te Mana o te Wai
- Manaakitanga
- Tikanga
- Kawa

Kaitiakitanga is rich in meaning for Maniapoto, and is described further in the statement below by Karen Fisher (Fisheries Reference Group Member)

“Principles of respect, responsibility, guardianship (custodianship, stewardship) and well-being underpin how kaitiakitanga is understood by, and embodied within, kaitiaki

of the Waipā.

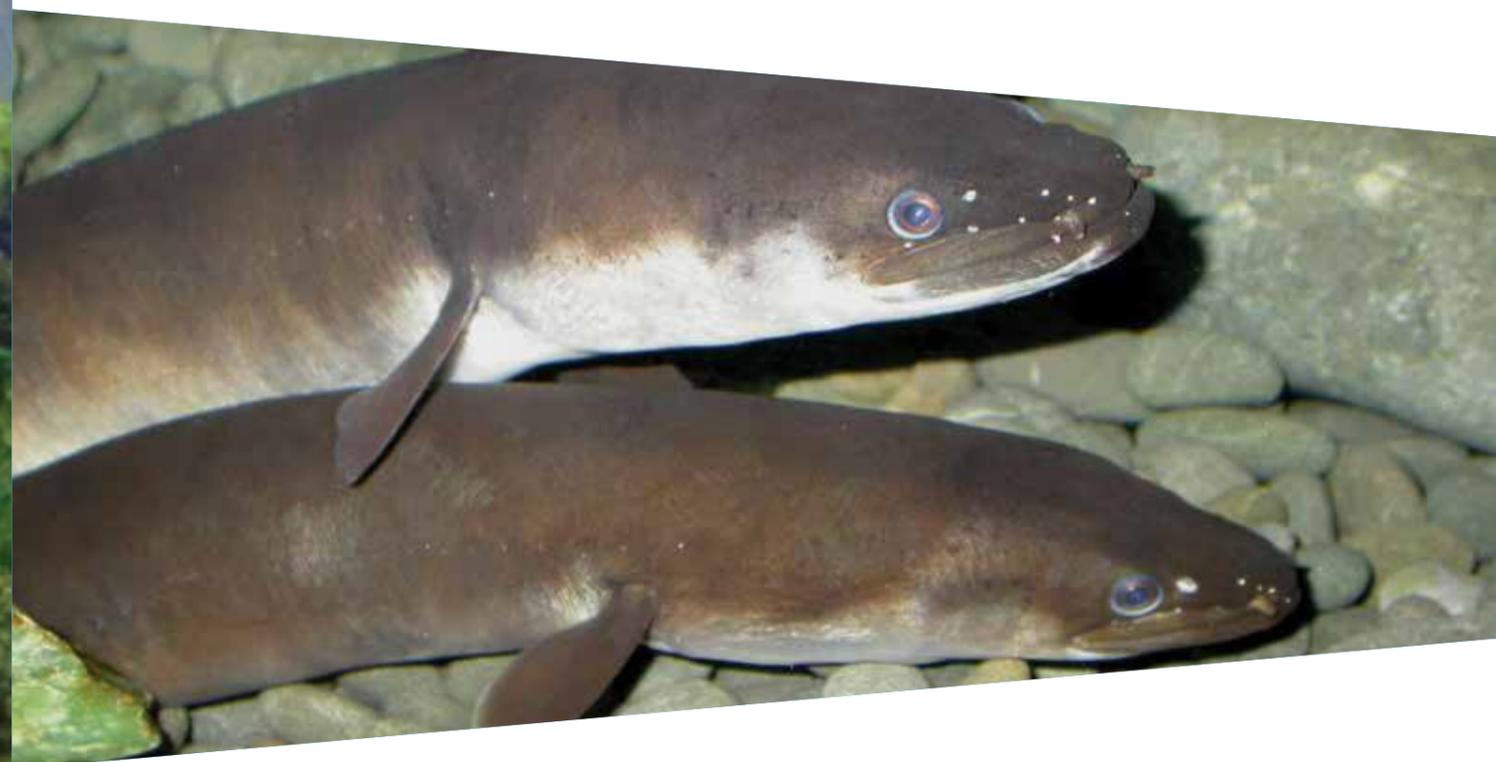
Practices connect Kaitiaki to the Waipā. Whānau that live in the area are Kaitiaki as are holders of kōrero of the area.

Aspirations reflect the liveliness of Kaitiakitanga as something that continues to enrich the relationship between Maniapoto and the Waipā. There is a desire to re-establish practices from our past, and to provide new opportunities unimaginable to our ancestors.

Relationships are like the veins of the River itself; where there are no obstructions and where the River and its people can prosper. The Waipā flows through Maniapoto and provides the means by which pā along the River can flourish and support each other and the people of Maniapoto.

The Point in Ngāruawāhia is a physical expression of the connection between Maniapoto and the Kīngitanga. The Waipā connects Maniapoto to district and regional councils and provides an opportunity for strengthening understanding and communication.”

Dr Karen Fisher
Fisheries Reference Group





PART 5.0 - NIHO O TE TUNA

5.1 OPERATING CONTEXT

The Crown has acknowledged the relationship between Maniapoto and the Waipā River through the signing in September 2010 of the Deed in relation to co-governance and co-management of the Waipā River. This was followed in 2012 with the enactment of the Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012.

The Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012 formalised the enduring relationship of Maniapoto with the Waipā River. It is a relationship that is based on profound respect and gives rise to responsibilities to protect te mana o te wai and to exercise kaitiakitanga in accordance with the long-established tikanga of Maniapoto.

Under the Act, Maniapoto achieved co-governance and co-management arrangements specific to the Waipā River and its catchment. The arrangements are extended to the headwaters of the Waipā River at Pekepeke Spring in the Rangitoto Ranges. The overarching purpose is to restore and maintain the quality and integrity of the waters that flow into, and form part of, the Waipā River for present and future generations, and the care and protection of the mana tuku iho o Waiwaia. Waiwaia refers to the essence and well-being

of the Waipā River. To Maniapoto, Waiwaia is the personification of the waters of the Waipā River and its enduring spiritual guardian.

The co-management framework contains mechanisms that enable Maniapoto to better manage natural resources in the Upper Waipā River Catchment. Maniapoto are eager to utilise the co-management framework to reconnect with the awa as Kaitiaki as outlined in the statement by Daniel Hikuroa.

“I look forward to a time when Ngāti Maniapoto can exercise our tino rangatiratanga regarding the Waipā, and collectively realise our role as kaitiaki, enjoying our rights and responsibilities for generations to come. We draw from and add to our rich mātauranga and science to inform us, and tikanga to guide us as we re-kindle our relationship with the Waipā.”

Dr Daniel Hikuroa
Fisheries Reference Group

“I look forward to a time when Ngāti Maniapoto can exercise our tino rangatiratanga regarding the Waipā, and collectively realise our role as kaitiaki, enjoying our rights and responsibilities for generations to come.”

5.2 MANIAPOTO FISHERIES PLAN

The key mechanisms for freshwater fisheries management are:

The Primary Industries Accord between Maniapoto and the Crown sets out that Maniapoto will develop a fisheries plan and will define specific objectives in relation to fisheries matters. The plan will guide implementation of the Maniapoto Fisheries Regulations (in development).

- The Fisheries Plan has the following effect (subject to certain requirements being met):
- Any person exercising functions, duties and powers under Sections 12-14 of the Fisheries Act 1996 must recognise and provide for the Plan.
- The Minister for Primary Industries must have particular regard to the Plan when making sustainability measures that relate to the Upper Waipā River (Area C, Figure 2).

5.3 UPPER WAIPĀ RIVER FISHERIES REGULATIONS

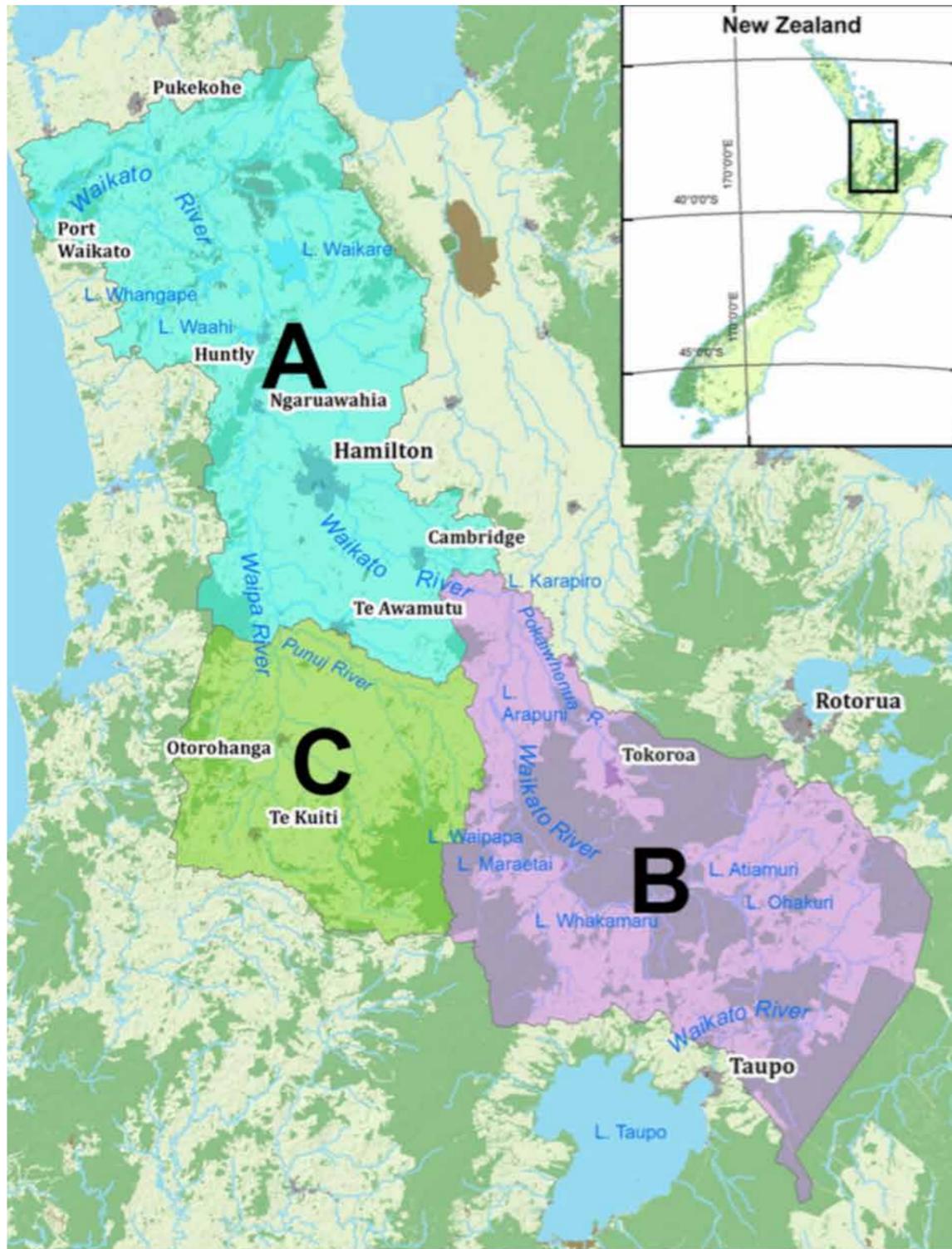
Any person exercising powers and authority under the Upper Waipā River Fisheries Regulations (in development) must act consistently with the Plan.

- Any person carrying out functions or exercising powers under the Conservation Act 1987 and enactments listed in Schedule One to that Act, must have particular regard to the plan to the extent to which its contents relate to the functions or powers.
- As a recognised iwi planning document, regional and district councils are required to take the Plan into account when preparing or changing a district or regional plan or regional policy statement under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

- A consent authority considering an application for a resource consent under Section 104 of the RMA must have regard to the plan if it considers 104(1)(c) applies to the plan.
- Developed jointly between Maniapoto and the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), the Regulations will enable Maniapoto to appoint Kaitiaki and manage the issuing of permits for customary fishing, as well as recommending Bylaws to the Minister that may restrict or prohibit fishing on parts of the Waipā River.

5.4 UPPER WAIPĀ RIVER INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

An Integrated Management Plan (UWRIMP) is required to be developed by 2015. The The Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012 sets out that the UWRIMP will contain a fisheries component, to be developed jointly between Maniapoto and MPI; and a conservation component, developed jointly between Maniapoto and Department of Conservation (DOC). The fisheries component will be deemed to be a fisheries plan under Section 11A of the Fisheries Act 1996. The conservation component will be deemed (in part) to be a freshwater fisheries management plan under Section 17J of the Conservation Act 1987.



Waikato-Waipā Rivers Cogovernance Areas

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Area A | Rivers, Lakes, Drains | Wetlands |
| Area B | Forest and Scrub | Towns |
| Area C | | |

Inset Coordinate System: WGS 1984



PART 6.0 - TE PUKU O TE TUNA

This section outlines management objectives developed to achieve the vision for the fishery of the Waipā River. They are categorised into four main sections - Rangatiratanga, Kaitiakitanga, Hononga, and Mātauranga Objectives.

6.1 RANGATIRATANGA OBJECTIVES KO WAIPĀ TOKU AWA

1. Maniapoto are active managers of the Waipā River Fishery.
2. Maniapoto have the ability to manage and harvest species for customary purposes as they have done for generations.
3. Maniapoto have the ability to share, manage, move, store, research, restore and protect their resources as they see fit.
4. Fishing activity is monitored to ensure compliance to all regulations and bylaws.
5. Penalties are enforced for non compliance to regulations and bylaws.

6.2 KAITIAKITANGA OBJECTIVES NGĀ ANA RAU O WAIWAIA

6. The ecological functions that support the fishery of the Waipā River, are restored and protected through a holistic, integrated coordinated approach, consistent with the tikanga, kawa and mātauranga of Maniapoto.
7. Economic activities associated with commercial fishing do not undermine the sustainability and wellbeing of the awa.
8. Activities that result in a reduction in habitat or fish (such as habitat degradation, fish passage, land based effects) are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
9. Pā Tuna and other significant fishing sites are protected and restored.

10. A comprehensive monitoring approach is developed that provides clear and accurate information on all fishing activity in the awa.

6.3 HONONGA OBJECTIVES HAERE MAI KI AHAU, KI MANIAPOTO E

11. Opportunities are provided to enable Maniapoto whānau/hapū to reconnect with the awa.
12. Maniapoto will work with Waikato-Tainui to collectively enhance the fishery of the Waipā/Waikato River Catchment.
13. To maintain relationships with DOC, MPI, Fish and Game, commercial fishers and industry through regular communication and dialogue.

6.4 MĀTAURANGA OBJECTIVES KAINGIA TE KAI, KEI AO KĒ KI MANGAPŪ

14. Establish and maintain relationships with Universities and other research providers.
15. Maniapoto tikanga, kawa and mātauranga of freshwater fisheries is collated, shared and understood.
16. This mātauranga is placed at the centre of how we manage our awa.
17. To promote opportunities and learning about our awa through projects, wānanga and practices.

PART 7.0 - TE HIKU O TE TUNA

ACTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

This following actions were developed to achieve the objectives for the fishery of the Upper Waipā River.

7.1 RANGATIRATANGA ACTIONS

1. Primary Industries Accords and Fisheries Regulations will be developed between Maniapoto and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).
2. Develop a monitoring strategy to determine progress towards achieving objectives and the effectiveness of the Maniapoto Upper Waipa River Fisheries Plan.
3. Advocate for increased monitoring and research within and specific to the Maniapoto rohe.
4. Maniapoto will work with River Marae and appoint Kaitiaki to manage the Customary Fishery for the Upper Waipā River.
5. Training pathways will be provided to Kaitiaki to enable them to thrive
6. Communication is facilitated between our Kaitiaki and our people
7. Maniapoto will work with River Marae and MPI to appoint Honorary Fishery Officers (HFO) who will be responsible for monitoring the commercial and recreational activity on the Upper Waipā River.
8. Maniapoto Kaitiaki to be supported by MPI through the establishment and resourcing of a Maniapoto Fisheries Management Group including but not limited to Maniapoto Kaitiaki, Maniapoto HFO and Maniapoto Māori Trust Board staff.
9. In the Maniapoto Rohe Commercial Fishers (Eel and Mullet and other native species) will be required to be tracked using technology such as real time GPS (this is to be achieved through Maniapoto Fisheries Bylaws).
10. Fisheries Regulations created by Maniapoto will contain provisions that enable Maniapoto to share, manage, research, restore and protect their resources as they see fit.
11. Promote increased collaboration between agencies currently conducting monitoring work in the rohe, including to identify research requirements and to share information.

7.2 KAITIAKITANGA ACTIONS

12. An Integrated River Management Plan is developed for the Upper Waipā River.
13. Advocate for and facilitate increased collaboration between agencies with responsibilities for fisheries management to reduce overlap and conflicts and increase efficiency.

14. Support initiatives that will result in improved aquatic habitat that will support healthy and sustainable fisheries.
15. Advocate for a catchment-based approach to land management that integrates land and water management.
16. Advocate for fisheries habitat restoration, creation, enhancement and protection through relevant Resource Management Act 1991 processes, such as policy and plan development, resource consents, enforcement and monitoring, particularly in relation to:
 - riparian management;
 - fish passage;
 - sedimentation;
 - nutrient enrichment;
 - wetland protection; and
 - water level and flow management.
17. Develop a programme to work with Maniapoto land owners to improve land management practices on Maniapoto land, including through stock exclusion and planting of all riparian margins.
18. The Commercial Fishery will be monitored to ensure that the economic activities do not undermine the sustainability and wellbeing of the Upper Waipā River Catchment.
19. Those undertaking activities that adversely affect the fishery will avoid, remedy or mitigate the affects eg stock, construction of culverts and other structures, activities that restrict fish passage.
20. Develop a work program towards ensuring native fish have unrestricted access throughout the Upper Waipā River Catchment (i.e. Fish passage is provided).
21. Reduce pest fish (eg Koi Carp) biomass if they are having an adverse effect on the native species.
22. Advocate for appropriate management of pest and weed species that impact on fisheries habitat with relevant agencies, such as councils, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, and with land owners and managers.
23. Develop a program that identifies significant sites for Maniapoto.
24. Restore priority sites.
25. Identify opportunities to source funding and establish partnerships for restoration projects that will result in improved habitat.
26. Restoration Projects (funded by the Waikato River Authority (WRA) and others, are implemented in the Upper Waipā River Catchment (including habitat restoration,



wetland creation, fish passage, recreation of Pā Tuna, and provision of flooding zones, education, wānanga and training, and promotion of tribal identity).

27. Survey fisheries in the Upper Waipā River to have a baseline understanding, from which to measure improvement.

7.3 HONONGA ACTIONS

28. Projects such as recreating Paa Tuna, Habitat restoration, Tira Hoe and Wānanga will be developed to help re-establish the relationship between the iwi with the awa.
29. Collaborate with Waikato-Tainui, Te Arawa River Iwi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Raukawa to sustainably manage customary fisheries in the Waikato and Waipā River Catchments.
30. Maniapoto Māori Trust Board will meet with Waikato Raupatu River Trust regularly (at least annually) to discuss the fishery of the Waipā/Waikato Catchments.
31. Maniapoto Māori Trust Board will adopt Bylaws to protect Tuna (like Waikato Raupatu River Trust) to ensure a consistent catchment wide approach.
32. Existing relationships with other iwi, the crown, and industry will be fostered and enhanced.
33. New relationships that contribute to the achievement of the vision for fishery restoration will be fostered and enhanced.

7.4 MĀTAURANGA ACTIONS

34. Develop a work program that identifies holders of mātauranga.
35. Record traditional and historical practices (via multi-media methods) and make accessible to Maniapoto tribal members.
36. Develop cultural health indicators reflecting Maniapoto mātauranga that can be incorporated within monitoring programmes.
37. Hold wānanga and share mātauranga with iwi members.
38. Re-establish the traditional practices through traditional and contemporary means (e.g. Pā Tuna, fishing for Piharau).
39. Support the preservation of Maniapoto mātauranga, tikanga and kawa relating to fisheries, particularly through education of rangatahi.
40. Support and facilitate research or educational opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding about fisheries, including identification of priority areas for protection, such as areas supporting critical life stages (e.g. spawning).

For convenience the Fisheries Objectives and Actions are also presented together in a table in Appendix 1.

PART 8.0 - HĪNAKI

The Hīnaki represents mātauranga or knowledge which is grounded in experiences that come from the intimate knowing of the Waipā over generations. Old wisdom is shared as stories are told; as stories are lived and knowledge is made, the process of (re)building mātauranga is enabled.

8.1 NATIVE FISH

There are at least 19 types of native fish, 10 types of introduced fish, and many aquatic invertebrates and plants living in the Waipā River. The following table lists native freshwater fish and crustaceans found in the Waipā River Catchment.

COMMON NAME (MĀORI NAME)	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Yellow-eyed mullet (aua)	<i>Aldrichetta forsteri</i>
Shortfin eel (tuna)	<i>Anguilla australis</i>
Longfin eel (tuna)	<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>
Australian longfin eel	<i>Anguilla reinhardtii</i>
Lamprey (piharau)	<i>Geotria australis</i>
Torrentfish	<i>Cheimarrichthys fosteri</i>
Giant kokopu	<i>Galaxias argenteus</i>
Koaro	<i>Galaxias brevipinnis</i>
Banded kokopu	<i>Galaxias fasciatus</i>
Īnanga	<i>Galaxias maculatus</i>
Short-jawed kokopu	<i>Galaxias postvectis</i>
Black mudfish	<i>Neochanna diversus</i>
Giant bully	<i>Gobiomorphus gobiodes</i>
Common bully	<i>Gobiomorphus cotidianus</i>
Redfin bully	<i>Gobiomorphus huttoni</i>
Cran's bully	<i>Gobiomorphus basalis</i>
Grey mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Common smelt	<i>Retropinna retropinna</i>
Black flounder	<i>Rhombosolea retiaria</i>
Freshwater crayfish (koura)	<i>Paranephrops planifrons</i>
Shrimp	<i>Paratya curvirostris</i>

The abundance of native fish in the Waipā (Waikato River catchment) has declined. The following species, found in the Waikato and Waipā River Catchments, are classed as 'declining':

- Īnanga
- shortjaw kokopu
- giant kokopu
- kōaro
- longfin eels
- lamprey
- black mudfish
- torrentfish
- redfin bully

Maniapoto key species include tuna, piharau, Īnanga, grey mullet, and black flounder. Knowledge regarding these species is shared in the following sections. The other native species whilst not utilised as often still contribute to the overall ecosystem as a valuable food source for the key species.

8.1.1 TUNA

There are three freshwater tuna (eel) species found in New Zealand, the endemic longfinned (longfin) eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*, Gray), the shortfinned (shortfin) eel (*Anguilla australis*, Richardson) and the Australian longfinned (spotted) eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*, Steindachner) (Jellyman et al. 1996, McDowall 2000).

The New Zealand eel species are larger, older and much slower growing than other eel species (Chisnall and Hicks 1993, Jellyman 1995, Graynoth and Taylor 2000), sometimes attaining weights in excess of 20 kg and lengths of over 1.6 m (Jellyman 1977).

Although there are overlaps in habitat preference between the eel species, the longfin, which is the top predator in New Zealand freshwater systems, tends to prefer clean tributaries and penetrate further inland than the shortfin eel. The shortfin eel is found predominantly in lowland regions of coastal catchments and muddy rivers (Jellyman and Todd 1982). The spotted eel has only recently been discovered in New Zealand, and it seems to prefer estuarine habitats (Jellyman et al. 1996, McDowall 2000).

8.1.1.1 SIGNIFICANCE OF TUNA TO MANIAPOTO

Tuna was significant to the traditional Maniapoto lifestyles; through traditional teachings in both verbal and written form; as handed down from generation to generation. Eels were so highly regarded that inter-tribal wars were fought over access to eel fishing grounds (Ashwell 1878, Cowan 1941, Maniapoto 1998). As an example, the traditional tuna resource of the Te Kawa repo, in the Kakepuku region south west of Te Awamutu was held in such high esteem that tribes went to battle to secure or protect access rights (Maniapoto, 1998). It

is recorded that the Te Kawa repo had such a plentiful supply of tuna within its wetlands, that ownership of the repo ensured mana whenua were widely honoured and acclaimed (Maniapoto, 1998).

Best (1929) included an account from J. Ormsby of Ōtorohanga (also recorded in Maniapoto (1998)) that further described the significance of the Te Kawa repo. In former times the repo had weirs erected at its outlets for the taking of migrant tuna that were commencing their downstream migration out to the sea to spawn. Ormsby indicated that when the tuna were coming down from the repo in great numbers it was impossible to deal with them except in bulk. Relays of men set to emptying the hīnaki or eel pots as they filled at the weirs. They emptied them regularly day and night while the tuna heke run (eel migration run) continued (Maniapoto, 1998). They kept the tuna alive in large hīnaki whakatikotiko or eel pots (wicker baskets) placed in the water and secured by cords.

The Te Kawa wetland was drained in the 1910s, but not without protest. On the 23rd of October 1908 a letter of protest signed by Ngawaero Te Koro, Te Waru Amotahi, Wiri Herangi and nine others was received by the Minister for Native Affairs:

Their objection listed the following reasons:

1. That the said piece of land is an eel pā and has been used as such from time immemorial.
2. That the objectors hold the said eel pā for their own benefit and for the benefit of the Ngāti Ngawaero tribe and that the said eel pā is of great value profit and importance to them.
3. That the effect of the said proposed drain will be to destroy the character and use of the said piece of land as an eel pā and will destroy the eel weirs thereon.
4. That the objectors cannot be adequately compensated for such destruction.
5. That it would be inequitable to the objectors that the said drain should be permitted.
6. That the construction of the said drain would infringe the just legal and equitable rights of the objectors to maintain the said piece of land as an eel pā.

The objection was heard by the Northern District of the Supreme Court of New Zealand in Hamilton on 6 May 1910. The Court disallowed the objection 'upon the ground that the rights of the plaintiffs could be compensated for in money and should not be allowed to stand in the way of draining a large area of country'.

Unfortunately this decision and the drainage of the wetland resulted in the loss of a significant customary eel fishery once enjoyed by Ngāti Maniapoto.

Maniapoto (1998) also provides further examples of the significance of the tuna fishery through traditional Māori history which records that the (Maniapoto) region was conquered and reconquered up to six times since the first occupation of the area by Māori until the final resettlement period of Ngāti Maniapoto. He also states that the impact of colonisation and modern commercial practices of the tuna fishery have now obliterated this once important fishery to the status of bare pastoral land, supporting mainly agricultural and associated use.

8.1.1.2 TRADITIONAL FISHING METHODS AND PRACTICES

According to Maniapoto (1998), within the Ngāti Maniapoto rohe Māori practiced traditional fishing rights by territorial observance and agreement.

Traditionally, a lot of time was spent preparing for eel fishing. Many hours were spent weaving hīnaki (trap), preparing rauwiri (eel weir) and placing worms on flax fibre (muka). Many different types of fishing techniques were used including rama tuna, takahi, and by hand.

As modern materials and technologies became available, they were readily adapted by Ngāti Maniapoto. An example of this modern adaptation is the hīnaki, whilst the structure and shape is the same, the construction and materials have varied considerably (Maniapoto, 1998). Historically the hīnaki was made from aka or mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), kiekie vine (*Freyinetia banksii*), flax (*Phormium tenax* and *P. colensoi*), and various other materials available in each of the regions (Maniapoto, 1998). Metal and steel are now the materials utilised to construct hīnaki (Maniapoto, 1998).

8.1.1.3 TRADITIONAL USE OF TUNA

Maniapoto (1998) reported that the importance of tuna as a source of sustenance to Māori in pre-Pākehā times continued following colonisation. The use of tuna as a primary food source in the Ngāti Maniapoto region continued for many generations, and tuna was caught and preserved for future use on a regular lunar or seasonal cyclic basis. He further recorded that Māori used tuna in many different ways, depending upon the species or lifestage of tuna that they caught. Tuna riki or elvers (baby eels), caught as they congregated or climbed waterfalls and other barriers that obstructed waterways became a source of fresh food or were dried.

Non-migratory tuna were caught from wetlands and lakes, or rivers using hīnaki, line, spear, or any other methods suitable to the seasonal or lunar cycle (Maniapoto, 1998). The tuna were either eaten fresh and grilled over embers or placed in an umu or hāngi; or they were dried in a process called "pāwhara tuna" (Maniapoto, 1998).

Migratory tuna caught during the tuna heke (eel migration) were preserved in a similar way, or kept alive in hīnaki patikotiko. Those that were to be pāwhara were put into holding pits in preparation for preserving. Pāwhara tuna was prepared by removing the backbone. The body was then skewered open using small wooden sticks and hung over drying racks to dry in the sun. Once sufficiently dry the racks of tuna were placed over the fire and smoke until completely preserved by smoking or partial fire dry-cooking (Maniapoto, 1998).

8.1.1.4 CONTEMPORARY CUSTOMARY FISHING FOR TUNA

In 2013 Hicks et al. produced a report that provided a snap shot of fishing activity in the Waikato River Catchment, including the Waipā River. On the 22nd February 2012 a hui was held with Maniapoto at Te Keeti Marae, it was found that in Maniapoto customary fishing still occurred primarily for hui and tangi purposes. Feedback indicated that

customary fishing is for the holistic well-being of the iwi. Further, the health and well-being of the river encompasses both the fish stocks in the river and the well-being of the iwi.

Maniapoto provided a strong message about the impacts of low stocks of traditional food sources (eel and koura) within the catchment areas. Feedback indicated that low stocks meant less cultural and fishing engagement with the river, resulting in cultural disconnection and a negative impact of tikanga and knowledge relating to the river not being passed on to younger generations.

8.1.2 PIHARAU

Piharau are an important fish species for Maniapoto. Peter Stockman’s statement reflects the special significance of this taonga.

“I remember how my grandfather would always make sure that we followed the tradition when Piharau season was on, we would hang the first piharau in a designated tree at the Pā tuna, we always had to drop off the first catch to each of the kaumātua in the district. He was adamant that no alcohol was to be taken down there. My own memory is of the banks being literally silver with piharau as they swam through the channel in the early hours of the morning (shown in the photo). I had the privilege of giving Koro Henry Iti Rangitaawa his last feed of piharau at his grand age of 101 years and the joy on his face as he ‘savoured’ each bit was something I will always remember.”

Peter Stockman,
Fisheries Reference Group

Adult Piharau (*Geotria australis*) or lamprey, migrate upstream from the sea into the Waikato and Waipā Rivers between winter and spring to spawn and die. Although spawning sites are largely unknown, the detection of larvae (ammocoete), and an older stage called macropthalmia near headwaters would suggest a spawning site in the upper reaches of small bush catchments (David and Speirs, 2010).

They are now rarely seen and are considered a threatened species, as a result of reduced water quality, habitat decline and instream barriers.

Through the Maniapoto Priorities for the Restoration of the Waipā River Catchment process, Maniapoto whānau identified locations in the Waipā Catchment where piharau were/are harvested (as they congregate at natural and man-made barriers during their migration) and tributaries where they are likely to spawn, these include the Moakururu, Turitea, Ngakoahia, Mangakara and Rangitukia Streams. Maniapoto still have fishermen within the tribe who still hold and continue to develop their local knowledge about piharau harvest/processing, migration routes and spawning habitats of this taonga species (Tipa et al. 2014).

8.1.3 WHITEBAIT

Whitebait in the Waipā comprises two main species, īnanga and banded kōkopu. These were mainly gathered from the mainstem of the Waipā River. The main pressures on whitebait in the Waipā River catchment are poor water quality, flood control / stop banks and loss of habitat. Low water clarity during the upstream migration period is thought to be one of the causes influencing the abundance of whitebait in the Waipā River (Tipa et al. 2014).



8.1.4 GREY MULLET

Grey Mullet are known to travel up the Waipā River as far as Te Kuiti, but because they are diadromous they must return to the sea to spawn. The grey mullet belong to the Mugilidae (or mullet) family. They feed on detritus and plant material that they suck from the substrate. They are also known to feed by grazing the surfaces of aquatic plants. Grey mullet are large fish, commonly reaching 500 mm in length. They are regarded as a valuable food fish, because of the oily flesh.

8.1.5 BLACK FLOUNDER

Black flounder are typically found inhabiting sandy or muddy estuaries and tidal reaches of rivers. They are primarily a coastal species, although they can penetrate well inland if the river gradient is not too steep. Juvenile flounder have been found migrating upstream at a size of 10-15mm. Specimens have been recorded more than 100 km inland in some river systems. Maniapoto Kaumātua have reported seeing black flounder as far upstream as Te Kuiti during their younger years.

8.2 INTRODUCED FISH

The Waipā River contains at least 10 introduced fish species, and supports a winter trout fishery. Trout and Koi Carp are discussed in further detail.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Catfish	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
Goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
Grass carp	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>
Koi carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Gambusia or mosquito fish	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>
Rainbow trout	<i>Onchorhynchus mykiss</i>
Perch	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>
Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Rudd	<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>
Tench	<i>Tinca tinca</i>

8.2.1 TROUT

Trout were introduced to the Waipā and Waikato River systems over 100 years ago. The Waikato Times, Volume XLI, Issue 3324, 17 October 1893, Page 5 reports that the Waipā County Council ought to be congratulated for their efforts to introduce trout to the streams of the district. They note that the “Mountain streams coming off Pirongia and the ranges of Western Waipā are very suited to trout. Beautiful clear cool water rippling over pebbly bottoms with here and there a deep pool”.

The trout successfully acclimatised to these streams and are still fished today, although they are not considered a taonga species by Maniapoto.

8.2.2 KOI CARP

Koi carp are an ornamental strain of the common or European carp. Koi commonly grow to over 5 kg and 600 mm in length. Koi carp are classified as a noxious fish under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and an unwanted organism under the Act. It is illegal to possess live koi, rear or consign them under Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, or under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to release, sell or breed them without written authority. The primary responsibility for koi carp lies with the Department of Conservation.

Koi carp pose a significant threat to New Zealand’s freshwater ecosystems by uprooting water plants, lowering water quality and eating insects and other young native fish. There are currently no adequate methods for controlling koi carp in rivers, though their numbers may be controlled in small, closed water bodies.

8.3 RIVER INVERTEBRATES

Invertebrates are very important in the ecosystem as food sources for fish. Invertebrates are animals without backbones. They include insects, snails, worms and crustaceans, such as koura (freshwater crayfish). Different types of invertebrates live in different parts of the River, depending on the water quality and the river bed substrate, for example, whether the river bed is sandy or rocky.

Soft shallow shorelines are usually covered by under water plants. They provide a home for damselfly larvae, small fish, snails, fine algae and beetles. Rocky areas in shallow parts of the River are home to small filamentous algae and sponges.



PART 9.0 - CONCLUSION

This plan provides Maniapoto Iwi and others that undertake activities that affect the fishery, a foundation for future actions to improve the state of the fishery of the Upper Waipā River.

Improvements will take time and we acknowledge that in order to achieve the best results we will need to work collectively

with other agencies and partners.

It is the next generation and the one's after that that will hopefully benefit from the actions outlined in the plan. With that in mind the final statement is provided by Tongaporutu Neha the youngest member of the Fisheries Reference Group.

“Growing up in the 90’s, as a child I thought ‘environmental consciousness’ was already a ‘long-running’ dominant narrative in society... However it wasn’t until the 90’s when alot of environmental policies were finally passed into law.”

“Understanding this, gives my generation a huge responsibility to ensure that indigenous traditional knowledge that has been completely ignored for the last 150 years; are fully propelled into the mainstream. Honouring Kaitiakitanga is about honouring the same cultural awareness that kept ALL our waterways clean, healthy and thriving for EVERYONE. I want all our great grandchildren to bathe and breathe in Waiwaia. Hoki Mai Waiwaia!”

*Tongaporutu Neha
Fisheries Reference Group*

PART 10.0 - REFERENCES

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PART 11.0 - APPENDIX

Objectives	Actions	When
RANGATIRATANGA OBJECTIVES Ko Waipā toku Awa	Fisheries Accords and Fishing Regulations will be developed between Maniapoto and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	2016
AUTHORITY	Develop a monitoring strategy to determine progress towards achieving objectives and the effectiveness of the Maniapoto Waipā River Fisheries Plan.	2015-ongoing
Maniapoto are active managers of the Waipā River fishery	Advocate for increased monitoring and research within and specific to the Maniapoto rohe.	2015-ongoing
Maniapoto have the ability to manage and harvest species for customary purposes as they have done for generations	Maniapoto will work The River Marae and appoint Kaitiaki to manage the Customary Fishery for the Upper Waipā River	2016-2017
	Training pathways will be provided to Kaitiaki to enable them to thrive	2016-2017
	Communication is facilitated between our Kaitiaki and out people	ongoing
Maniapoto Kaitiaki to be supported by MPI through the establishment and resourcing of a Maniapoto Fisheries Management Group including but not limited to Maniapoto Kaitiaki, Maniapoto HFO and Maniapoto Māori Trust Board staff.	Maniapoto will work The River Marae and appoint Kaitiaki to manage the Customary Fishery for the Upper Waipā River	2016-2017
	Training pathways will be provided to Kaitiaki to enable them to thrive	2016-2017
Maniapoto have the ability to share, manage, move, store, research, and protect their resources as they see fit.	Fisheries Regulations created by Maniapoto will contain provisions that enable Maniapoto to share, manage, research, restore and protect their resources as they see fit.	2016
	Promote increased collaboration between agencies currently conducting monitoring work in the rohe, including to identify research requirements and to share information.	2015-ongoing
Commercial activity is monitored to ensure compliance to all Regulations and Bylaws.	Maniapoto will work with River Marae and MPI to appoint Honorary Fisheries Officers (HFO) who will be responsible for monitoring the commercial and recreational activity on the Upper Waipā River.	2016-2017
	In the Maniapoto Rohe Commercial Fishers (Eel and Mullet and other native species) will be required to be tracked using technology such as real time GPS (this is to be achieved through Maniapoto Fisheries Bylaws)	2017
Recreational Activity is monitored to ensure compliance to all regulations and bylaws.	Maniapoto will work with river Marae and MPI to appoint Honorary Fisheries Officers (HFO) who will be responsible for monitoring the commercial and recreational activity on the upper Waipā River.	ongoing
Penalties are enforced for non-compliance to regulations and bylaws.	Maniapoto will work with River Marae and MPI to appoint Honorary Fisheries Officer (HFO) who will be responsible for monitoring the commercial and recreational activity on the upper Waipā River.	ongoing

Objectives	Actions	When	
KAITIAKITANGA OBJECTIVES Ngā ana rau a Waiwaia	An integrated Management Plan is development for the Upper Waipā River.	2015-ongoing	
The ecological functions that support the fishery of the Waipā River, are restored and protected through a holistic, integrated coordinated approach, consistent with the tikanga, kawa and mātauranga of Maniapoto	Advocate for and facilitate increased collaboration between agencies with responsibilities for fisheries management to reduce overlap and conflicts and increase efficiency	ongoing	
	Support initiatives that will result in improved aquatic habitat that will support healthy and sustainable fisheries.	2015-ongoing	
	Advocate for a catchment-based approach to land management that integrates land and water management.	2015-ongoing	
	Advocate for fisheries habitat restoration, creation, enhancement and protection through relevant Resource Management Act 1991 processes, such as policy and plan development, resource consents, enforcement and monitoring, particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> riparian management; fish passage; sedimentation; nutrient enrichment; wetland protection and; water level and flow management. 	2015-ongoing	
	Develop a programme to work with Maniapoto land owners to improve land management practices on Maniapoto land, including through stock exclusion and planting of all riparian margins.	2015-ongoing	
	Economic activities associated with commercial fishing do not undermine the sustainability and wellbeing of the awa.	The Commercial Fishery will be monitored to ensure that the economic activities do not undermine the sustainability and wellbeing of the awa.	2015-ongoing
	Activities that result in a reduction in habitat or fish (such as habitat degradation, fish passage, land based effects) are avoided, remedied or mitigated.	Those undertaking activities that adversely affect the fishery will avoid, remedy or mitigate the affects eg stock, construction of culverts and other structures, activities that restrict fish passage.	2016-ongoing
		Develop a work program towards ensuring native fish have unrestricted access throughout the Upper Waipā Catchment (ie fish passage is provided).	2015-ongoing
	Pā Tuna and other significant fishing sites are protected and restored	Reduce Pest fish (eg Koi Carp) biomass if they are having as adverse effect on the native species.	2015-ongoing
		Advocate for appropriate management of pest and weed species that impact on fisheries habitat with relevant agencies, such as councils, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, and with land owners and managers.	2015-ongoing
Pā Tuna and other significant fishing sites are protected and restored	Develop a program that identifies significant sites for Maniapoto	2015-2016	
	Restore priority sites.	2016-ongoing	
	Identify opportunities to source funding and establish partnerships for restoration projects that will result in improved habitat.	2016-ongoing	
	Restoration Projects (funded by the Waikato River Authority [WRA] and others, are implemented in the Upper Waipā Catchment (including habitat restoration, wetland creation, fish passage, recreation of Pā Tuna, and provision of flooding zones, education, wānanga and training , and promotion of tribal identity).	2016-ongoing	
A comprehensive monitoring approach is developed that provides clear and accurate information on all fishing activity in the awa.	Survey Fisheries in the upper Waipā River to have a baseline understanding, from which to measure improvement.	2016-ongoing	

Objectives	Actions	When
HONONGA OBJECTIVES <i>Haere mai ki ahau, ki Maniapoto e</i> Opportunities are provided to enable Maniapoto whānau/hapū to reconnect with the awa.	Projects such as recreating Paa Tuna, Habitat restoration, Tira Hoe and Wānanga will be developed to help reestablish the relationship between the iwi with the awa.	ongoing
Maintain and strengthen the relationship between Maniapoto and the other River Iwi	Collaborate with Waikato-Tainui, Te Arawa River Iwi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Raukawa to sustainably manage customary fisheries in the Waikato and Waipā River catchments.	ongoing
Maniapoto will work with Waikato-Tainui to collectively enhance the fishery of the Waipā/Waikato River Catchment.	Maniapoto Māori Trust Board will meet with Waikato Ruapatu River Trust regularly (at least annually) to discuss the fishery of the Waipā/Waikato catchments.	2016-ongoing
	Maniapoto Māori Trust Board will adopt bylaws to protect tuna (like Waikato Raupatu River Trust to ensure a consistent wide approach.	2016
To maintain relationships with DOC, MPI, Fish and Game, commercial fishers and Industry through regular communication and dialogue.	Existing relationships with other iwi, the crown, and industry will be fostered and enhanced.	2015-ongoing
Establish and maintain relationships with Universities and other research providers.	New relationships that contribute to the achievement of the vision for fishery restoration will be fostered and enhanced	2015-ongoing

Objectives	Actions	When
MATAURANGA OBJECTIVES <i>Kaingia te kai, Kei ao iē ki Mangapā</i> Maniapoto tikanga, kawa and mātauranga of freshwater fisheries is collated, shared and understood.	Develop a work program that identifies holders of Mātauranga	2015-ongoing
This mātauranga is placed at the centre of how we manage our awa. To promote opportunities and learning about our awa through projects, wānanga and practices.	Record traditional and historical practices (via multi-media methods) and make accessible to Maniapoto tribal members	2015-ongoing
	Hold wānanga and share mātauranga with iwi members.	2015-ongoing
	Re-establish the traditional practices through traditional and contemporary means (e.g. Pā Tuna, Fishing for Piharau)	2015-ongoing
	Support the preservation of Maniapoto mātauranga, tikanga and kawa relating to fisheries, particularly through education of rangatahi.	2015-ongoing
	Support and facilitate research or education opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding about fisheries, including identification of priority areas for protection, such as areas supporting critical life stages (e.g. spawning).	2015-ongoing



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