

# **RAPAKI MĀTAITAI RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **BY TE HAPU O NGATI WHEKE RŪNANGA RAPAKI**

### **BACKGROUND:**

1. The Rapaki mātaimai reserve was declared as a mātaimai reserve under the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998 on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1998. At the same time Wiremu Gillies and Henry Couch were appointed as Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki for the mātaimai reserve.
2. These Tangata Tiaki are representatives for the tangata whenua of Whakaraupo (Lyttelton Harbour). They will be responsible for managing the fisheries resources within the mātaimai reserve at the Kaika of the tangata whenua.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:**

3. The broad aim of management within the Rapaki mātaimai reserve is to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries resources and its environment. It is recognised that the fisheries resources within Rapaki mātaimai reserve are affected by activities outside the mātaimai and a number of management tools are required to effectively manage the impacts on the fisheries.
4. The priority tools for managing the mātaimai are found in the Fisheries legislation, utilising the Fisheries Act 1996 provisions for tangata whenua to participate in fisheries management decisions as well as the empowering Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998. In addition, Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki will call on the support of other agencies with responsibility in the Lyttelton Harbour. This includes the Port Company, Department of Conservation and Regional and District Councils.
5. Regulation 16 of the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998 recognises the need for integrated management of the resources ki uta ki tai by empowering Tangata Tiaki to prepare a management plan. This plan is to be treated as a planning document not only for fisheries purposes but also for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991.

### **MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE:**

6. Wiremu Gillies and Henry Couch as the Tangata Tiaki for the mātaimai reserve shall make bylaws restricting or prohibiting the taking of fisheries resources from within the mātaimai reserve. Such bylaws shall apply generally to all persons and shall be clearly communicated to all persons undertaking activities within the mātaimai reserve.
7. The office of Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki shall serve as the “designated place” where the bylaws shall be deposited for purposes of consultation and submission. There are a number of advantages utilising this office, not the least being the close proximity to the mātaimai reserve.
8. A sub-committee of Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki has been charged specifically with the responsibility for the protection and management of the fisheries resources and its environment, incorporating all land area, wāhi tapu and areas of cultural

significance. Membership of this committee is: Wiremu Gillies, Henry Couch, Melville Rehu, Donald Couch, Ron Dell, Hori Briggs and Bill Phillips.

9. Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki supported the warranting of four Honorary Fisheries Officers (HFOs) to enforce non-commercial fisheries laws in Te Waipounamu. These HFOs are Melville Rehu, John Lewis, Hori Briggs, and Ron Dell. In addition to their duties throughout Te Waipounamu, these HFOs will support the fisheries management of the Rapaki mātaimai reserve by enforcing the bylaws and being in close contact with the Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve.
10. The Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve and Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki have a close relationship with the customary fisheries team at Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation, particularly in regard to information management. All reporting of catch from the mātaimai and research undertaken within the mātaimai is communicated to NTDC and placed on the Geographic Information System (GIS). This information is then used to inform and support management decisions undertaken by the Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve.
11. The Kai Arahi for Canterbury/Kaikoura supports the management of the mātaimai and brings all the resources of his role to the task. This includes facilitation between the Ministry of Fisheries and tangata whenua, access to resources such as the Naiads and general information support regarding fisheries management and compliance.

**INITIAL PROGRAMMES:**

12. The initial emphasis within the mātaimai reserve is on the shellfish within the mātaimai. Research will be undertaken into the extent of cockles and pipi within the mātaimai and the impact of boating activities on the shellfish. It is intended to actively enhance and rebuild key fisheries within the mātaimai for the benefit of all.
13. There is currently little paua within the mātaimai and a reseedling programme is proposed, whereby paua shall be transferred to the mātaimai reserve from other waters of Te Waipounamu.
14. All programmes are to be undertaken with full participation of the Ministry of Fisheries and tangata whenua of the mātaimai reserve.

**PROPOSED BYLAWS:**

15. The following are bylaws that are to be deposited with the Ministry of Fisheries and at the designated office, being the office of Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki, for submission:

*BYLAWS MADE UNDER REGULATION 25 OF SOUTH ISLAND CUSTOMARY FISHING REGULATIONS 1998:*

16. All fishing with the Rapaki mātaimai reserve is to be reported to the Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve by filling in a catch report form at the office of Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki within 1 day of fishing.
17. There is no fishing or taking of whairepo (stingray) from within the mātaimai reserve.
18. There is no set netting (includes drag netting) within the mātaimai reserve unless expressly authorised by the Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve.
19. There is no taking of paua within the mātaimai reserve unless expressly authorised by the Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve.
20. There is no taking of any seaweed within the mātaimai reserve unless expressly authorised by the Tangata Tiaki of the mātaimai reserve.

*ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES (in agreement with the local authorities)*

21. To eliminate propulsion damage to the shellfish beds, landing of all motorcraft will be prohibited on the beach, which includes beaching of craft for scrubbing undersides. Anchoring will be permitted 50 metres from low water and the wharf is available for alighting or mooring.
22. To protect the restocked areas and habitats of all species a speed restriction of five knots will be applied to the mātaimai reserve.

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION:**

23. The following interventions are proposed to educate and clearly communicate to all people undertaking activities in the mātaimai reserve just what the rules of the mātaimai are.

**24. SIGNS:**

- a) Triangle boundary signs shall be erected on land surrounding the mātaimai reserve.
- b) Signs detailing the relevant bylaws shall be erected at the Rapaki wharf, beach and Lyttelton boat ramp. It is noted that in addition to the bylaws, the signs shall confirm that the Rapaki mātaimai is compliant with regulation 24(2), that is, no person may engage in commercial fishing in the mātaimai reserve.

**25. MARKER BUOYS:**

Three marker buoys delineating the mātaimai reserve will allow fishers to know exactly where the mātaimai reserve stops and starts.

**26. INFORMATION PAMPHLET:**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Ngāi Tahu will compile an information pamphlet that will be widely available.

**27. NOTIFICATION OF BYLAWS:**

This shall take place in the newspapers, as required in the regulations, and be posted at the office of Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke Rūnanga Rapaki.

**COMPLIANCE:**

28. To effectively achieve sustainable management of the mātaimitai reserve, compliance with the bylaws of the mātaimitai is required. All of the mechanisms detailed in the previous section will aid effective fisheries compliance of the rules of the mātaimitai reserve. The relationship the Christchurch compliance office of the Ministry of Fisheries has with Te Hapu o Ngati Wheke and Ngāi Tahu generally will also aid in achieving compliance with the rules.

**SUMMARY:**

29. Details of the management plan for the Rapaki mātaimitai reserve will necessarily change over time. Such amendments will be notified to the relevant authorities and public to ensure consistent compliance with the rules of the mātaimitai and to support effective fisheries management.

Wiremu Gillies  
Tangata Tiaki

Henry Couch  
Tangata Tiaki