

# TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI MUTUNGA

11 November 2025



E KORE E MIMITI TE PUNA KOROPUPŪ

Tēnā koutou e te Poari Matatau,

To the Expert Panel, we extend our greetings.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga has reviewed the current record of publicly available information provided as Appendix A and further information sought in Appendix B to Minute 12 (3 November 2025). Following this review, we provide additional information to ensure the record accurately reflects relevant instruments and information for consideration by the Expert Panel.

## Appendix B: Requested Information

### Mana Whenua and Rohe

**a. Recognition Instruments:** *If your rohe is supported by a Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA) application, Customary Marine Title or Protected Customary Rights order, please provide:*

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga has current applications for Customary Marine Title and Protected Customary Rights under the MACA Act. These applications are still pending. The current government's changes to the MACA Act have made the test for ongoing use of our takutai moana harder to achieve while reducing financial support for iwi to participate in the court process. The Rūnanga have opted to continue to prepare for the court case, but it is unlikely to be heard for at least 2 or more years<sup>1</sup>.

- The reference number is CIV-2017-485-000215 Ngāti Mutunga<sup>2</sup>.
- The map is accessible here<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.flipsnack.com/tronm/ngati-mutunga-annual-report-2024\\_web-final-vp0gnkuo7k/full-view.html](https://www.flipsnack.com/tronm/ngati-mutunga-annual-report-2024_web-final-vp0gnkuo7k/full-view.html)  
p. 17

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/assets/5-The-Courts/high-court/high-court-lists/applications-marine-coastal-list/civ-2017-485-000215-ngati-mutunga/civ-2017-485-215.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/assets/5-The-Courts/high-court/high-court-lists/applications-marine-coastal-list/civ-2017-485-000215-ngati-mutunga/civ2017-485-215ngatimutungamap.pdf>

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## Treaty Settlement Instruments

**a. Treaty Settlement Acts and Deeds (including any amended deeds):** *For the settlement instruments that apply to your rohe and are relevant to this project, please provide:*

### Deed granting a right of first refusal over shellfish quota

Provides that the Crown must offer the right to purchase Applicable Quota relating an Applicable TACC<sup>4</sup>. The applicable species in Schedule 1 are Kina (Sea urchin) and Pūrimu (Surf-clam). The obligations of the Crown under this Deed begin on the Settlement Date and end 50 years after that date. Obligations of the Crown also end on a transfer of the Applicable Quota in accordance with this Deed.

### Fisheries Protocol

This protocol sets out how the Ministry of Fisheries will interact with the Ngāti Mutunga Governance Entity in relation to matters specified in the Fisheries Protocol<sup>5</sup>. Those matters include:

- recognition of the interests of Ngāti Mutunga in all species of fish, aquatic life or seaweed that exist within the Fisheries Protocol Area;
- development of sustainability measures, fisheries regulations and fisheries plans;
- customary non-commercial fisheries management;
- research planning;
- nature and extent of fisheries services;
- contracting for services;
- employment of staff with customary non-commercial fisheries responsibilities; and
- changes to policy and legislation affecting the Fisheries Protocol.

### DoC Protocol

Sets out how Department of Conservation will interact with the Ngāti Mutunga Governance Entity on matters specified in the DoC Protocol<sup>6</sup>. Those matters include:

- species management;
- pest control;
- marine mammals;
- cultural materials;
- historic resources; and

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<sup>4</sup> [https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND\\_Treaty\\_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS\\_SUPPORT/Ngati-Mutunga-Deed-Granting-a-Right-of-First-Refusal-over-Shellfish-Quota-13-Dec-2005.pdf](https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS_SUPPORT/Ngati-Mutunga-Deed-Granting-a-Right-of-First-Refusal-over-Shellfish-Quota-13-Dec-2005.pdf) p.320

<sup>5</sup> [https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND\\_Treaty\\_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS\\_documents/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki-Deed-of-Settlement-Schedule-1-Cultural-redress-31-Jul-2005.pdf](https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS_documents/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki-Deed-of-Settlement-Schedule-1-Cultural-redress-31-Jul-2005.pdf) p.169

<sup>6</sup> [https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND\\_Treaty\\_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS\\_documents/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki-Deed-of-Settlement-Schedule-1-Cultural-redress-31-Jul-2005.pdf](https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS_documents/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki-Deed-of-Settlement-Schedule-1-Cultural-redress-31-Jul-2005.pdf) p.148

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- advocacy under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Both the Government and the Governance Entity are seeking a relationship consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.

## Coastal Tendering

Provides for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga to exercise a right to purchase tendered Specified Coastal Area authorisations<sup>7</sup>. The 'Offeror' of a tender may be:

- the Minister of Conservation under section 157 of the Resource Management Act 1991; or
- the Taranaki Regional Council under section 165E(1) or section 165F of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**b. Formal explanatory material:** *Any relevant Select Committee reports or Hansard extracts (links are sufficient).*

N/A

**c. Protocol operation:** *Examples of Fisheries Protocol engagement with Crown agencies relevant to your rohe moana (for example, notices, consultation letters). Links or short extracts are sufficient. If none, state "not held."*

Fisheries (Notification of Tāngata Kaitiaki/Tiaki for Area/Rohe Moana of Te Tai Hauāuru) Notice 2019<sup>8</sup>.

The Notice came into force on 16 August 2019 and provides for the Minister of Fisheries to appoint 29 Tāngata Kaitiaki/Tiaki for the rohe moana of the Taranaki Bight. Appointments were made at the request of multiple Treaty Settlement entities including Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga. The powers of Tāngata Kaitiaki/Tiaki are set out in the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998.

## 4. Iwi and Hapū Planning Documents

**a. Iwi Management Plan, Hapū Environmental Plan, or PSGE planning document (relevant to your rohe moana or the project area):**

<https://ngatimutunga.iwi.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Pages-from-Ngati-Mutunga-Iwi-Environmental-Management-Plan-Part-1.pdf>

<https://www.ngatimutunga.iwi.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Pages-from-Ngati-Mutunga-Iwi-Environmental-Management-Plan-Part-2.pdf>

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<sup>7</sup> [https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND\\_Treaty\\_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS\\_documents/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki-Deed-of-Settlement-Schedule-1-Cultural-redress-31-Jul-2005.pdf](https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki/DOS_documents/Ngati-Mutunga-Taranaki-Deed-of-Settlement-Schedule-1-Cultural-redress-31-Jul-2005.pdf) p.332

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2019/0177/latest/LMS233771.html>

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<https://www.ngatimutunga.iwi.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Pages-from-Ngati-Mutunga-Iwi-Environmental-Management-Plan-Part-3.pdf>

The Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Environmental Management Plan identifies that:

- as Ngāti Mutunga, we value all coastal areas within our rohe, and appreciate the human dimensions of the landscape, including important cultural and historic sites along the coast.

The objective for coastal ecosystems is:

- to protect and maintain all coastal ecosystems, so that the coast can continue to support Ngāti Mutunga customs, lifestyle and history for the whole community now and in the future.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga wishes to point out that the while project area is not directly relevant to our rohe moana, we are concerned that should this application gain its marine consents, it will adversely affect our rohe moana in terms of cumulative impacts and open the way for further applications along the entire Taranaki Bight.

**b. Status:** *Confirm whether the plan has been lodged with local authorities and whether they must have regard to it under ss 61(2A)(a), 66(2A)(a) and 74(2A) of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

The Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Environmental Management Plan is lodged with the Taranaki Regional Council, the New Plymouth District Council, and the Stratford District Council under the identified relevant RMA provisions.

## 5. Tikanga and Kaitiakitanga Practice

### a. Kaitiakitanga practice and indicators:

- Provide material that shows how kaitiakitanga is exercised in your rohe moana (for example monitoring approaches, indicators, MoUs or hui records).

#### Salt Wedge Surveys

Ngāti Mutunga has worked with Wild for Taranaki to conduct salt wedge surveys to identify inanga spawning sites based on high tide indicators<sup>9</sup>. The surveys will be conducted on the Mimitangiatua and Urenui rivers to complement the survey already completed on the Onaero river.

#### Oi Nesting Season Monitoring

This monitoring is undertaken with the support and guidance of the Taranaki Regional Council<sup>10</sup>. We monitor Oi nesting sites from Paparoa reef south to Reads property which is

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ngatimutunga.iwi.nz/inanga-habitat-survey/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ngatimutunga.iwi.nz/oi-nesting-season/>

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around a 1km stretch of coastline. Burrows are checked to record hatching success rates. Once the chicks are bigger we check again with the aim of banding them. Oi nest right along the Ngāti Mutunga coastline.

- *Note where any monitoring information is held.*

Monitoring information is archived in our Rūnanga computer system.

- b. Projects:** *Provide brief notes or links on current kaupapa, projects or agreements that demonstrate these practices in action (for example mauri restoration, marine species management, customary take management).*

The mission of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga is to promote an understanding of Ngāti Mutunga values and responsibilities in our rohe. We are responsible for protecting the environment for future generations to come, as well as demonstrating Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki.

## Identifying Piharau Habitat

Piharau are a taonga species for Ngāti Mutunga. As an anadromous species, Piharau spend several years in freshwater before migrating to sea. They return as adults to migrate upstream to spawning areas. The larvae that hatch grow into juveniles and continue the cycle. We have been using pheromone sensors and DNA testing to identify piharau habitat in seven of our awa – Taramoukou, Uruti, Haehanga, Mimitangiatua, Urenui, Onaero, and Waiau<sup>11</sup>. This work is guided by local freshwater ecologist, Bart Jansma. The project is funded by Te Wai Māori with laboratory support from Wilderlab Ltd and NIWA.

## **6. Customary Fisheries and Rāhui**

### **a. Customary fisheries (documents or brief note):**

- *main species, areas and seasons of importance for customary fishing;*

## Taranaki Regional Council Operative Coastal Plan for Taranaki

Schedule 6B of the Coastal Plan (Sites of significance to Māori and associated values) identifies that Ngāti Mutunga continues to exercise their customary rights on the coastline throughout the rohe<sup>12</sup>. The Schedule include the following Ngāti Mutunga statements:

Throughout the years Ngāti Mutunga has exercised custodianship over the coast and has imposed rāhui when appropriate; for example, restricting the harvest of kūtae, pipi, tuatua and other kaimoana. This kaitiaki duty to manage coastal resources sustainably has always been at the heart of the relationship between Ngāti Mutunga and the coast. Among the many

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ngatimutunga.iwi.nz/environment/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/hero-images/Coastal-Plan/Documents/Taranaki-Regional-Council-Operative-Coastal-Plan-for-Taranaki-4-September-2023.pdf> p.173

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sites of cultural, historical and spiritual significance to Ngāti Mutunga are Pihanga, Maruwehi, Kaweka, Oropapa, Te Mutu-o-Tauranga, Pukekohe, Arapawanui, Omihi and Hurita.

Reefs and sandy shallows off the coast provided kōura, pāua, kina, kūtae/kuku, tipa, pūpū, pāpaka, tuatua, oti and many other species of kaimoana. Hāpuku, moki, kanae, mako, pātiki and tāmure swam in great numbers between the many reefs which can be found stretching out into the waters of Ngā Tai a Kupe and along the Ngāti Mutunga coastline. Ngāti Mutunga tūpuna knew and named the fishing grounds and reefs including, Pakihi, Maruehi, Onepoto, Waitoetoe, Waikiroa, Paparoa, Kukuriki and Owei.

- *a summary table of customary fishing authorisations relevant to the project area or near it;*

N/A

- *how harvesting and allocation operate in practice, and any interface between customary take and commercial harvest (for example, commercial vessels harvesting to meet authorisations or involvement of Licensed Fish Receivers);*

N/A

- *any pātaka whata (pātaka) or similar formal customary fisheries frameworks operating in or near the project area, including how they are established and notified (if applicable);*

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga has delegated its role as the Mandated Iwi Organisation for Ngāti Mutunga for Fisheries to Maruehi Fisheries Limited. Maruehi sources fish at cost through its relationship with Moana Fisheries to provide fish to Ngāti Mutunga iwi, marae, hapū, and whanau for non-commercial purposes.

Requests to the Ngāti Mutunga Pātaka are for the approved purposes of tangihanga, hura kōhatu (unveiling), significant whānau events, or significant marae events.

All requests, with the exception of tangihanga, must be received at a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the planned event. Requests must be made in writing and must include the following information:

- the person requesting the pātaka and their contact details;
  - the purpose for the pātaka request;
  - the venue and date of events.
- *any planned pātaka or similar frameworks in or near the project area, and their current planning status. Indicative information is fine.*

N/A

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- b. Rāhui and temporary closures:** Outline any rāhui or tikanga-based restrictions within or near the project footprint. If applicable, identify any temporary closures under s 186A Fisheries Act 1996 (name and dates are sufficient).

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga do not have any rāhui within or near the project area as the operation is not taking place in our rohe moana. However, we do have active rāhui in our rohe<sup>13</sup>.

- c. Mātaitai reserves and taiāpure:** Identify any existing or proposed mātaitai reserves or taiāpure-local fisheries within or near the project area, and state their status (for example: concept, application with Fisheries New Zealand (**FNZ**), consultation underway, or gazetted). Include a coarse-scale map if available.

N/A

## 7. Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture

### a. Commercial fisheries (forward planning):

- state whether your iwi fishes its own quota, leases Annual Catch Entitlement (**ACE**) to others, or both;

A subsidiary asset holding company, Maruehi Fisheries Limited, holds our Treaty settlement quota and shares in Moana. Maruehi does not operate or fish the quota directly but leases annual fishing rights to operators.

- provide an indicative split of quota holdings by origin (Māori Fisheries Act 2004 (**MFA**) settlement vs other acquisitions) and an indicative split of catch by fisheries category (inshore, deepwater, and, if applicable, highly migratory species). Simple percentages or "mostly inshore / mixed / mostly deepwater" are sufficient;

This information is commercially sensitive and we are unable to provide it to you. You are welcome to apply to MPI for the release of this information under the Official Information Act and/or Privacy Act. We note that any information not included in the Quota Register must be assessed individually before it is released.

- indicate whether catch against those stocks is ordinarily taken in or near the project area, and, if known, name the relevant Fisheries New Zealand statistical reporting areas or general grounds (indicative information is fine);

As above.

- note any practical or tikanga constraints that would limit shifting commercial fishing between statistical reporting areas, between methods, or beyond your rohe moana.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ngatimutunga/posts/update-urenuui-awa-r%C4%81huite-r%C5%ABnanga-o-ng%C4%81ti-mutunga-recently-met-with-representati/6045159285543494/>

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The tikanga of Ngāti Mutunga is specific to the Ngāti Mutunga rohe moana. While there may be some constraints limiting the ability to shift commercial fishing in the project area, it is ultimately up to the mana moana of the project area to determine any practical or tikanga constraints regarding changes to statistical reporting areas or methods.

**b. Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act (MCACA):** *Provide any material or a short note on your MCACA interests, including any forward planning for potential use or development and the status of that planning if relevant. Indicative information is fine.*

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga has legally recognised rights and interests under the Ngāti Mutunga Claims Settlement Act 2006 including fisheries protocols which respond to the Fisheries Act 1996.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga is an Iwi Aquaculture Organisation under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 and a mandated Iwi Organisation under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004<sup>14</sup>.

## 8. Relationships/Partnerships

### a. Existing arrangements:

- *Provide copies/links to any partnership agreements or MoUs relevant to the rohe moana or coastal environment, and note whether each is public, confidential, or draft.*

In 2009, an MOU was signed between Ngāti Mutunga and the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC)<sup>15</sup>. The document defines how the groups will work together as Ngāti Mutunga seeks to have more control over its rohe. This agreement is one-way NPDC has sought to establish processes for Māori to contribute to decision making as required under the Local Government Act 2002.

- *Identify any co-management, co-governance or joint-management arrangements, and where possible provide the documents or basis establishing them.*

N/A

- *Identify any transfer or delegation of functions or powers to your iwi, hapū or PSGE by a local authority or Crown entity (for example under RMA ss 33 or 36B), noting the context and outcome.*

N/A

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi/ngati-mutunga/#>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/2544689/Understanding-signed-with-Ngati-Mutunga>



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## 9. Governance and Information-Sharing

*Provide protocols, terms of reference, data-sharing agreements, template reporting or similar documents that describe roles in monitoring, decision-making and mātauranga-based indicators, including any data guardianship arrangements.*

N/A

## Supporting Material

*If there are any additional documents, technical reports, maps or data tables that were referenced in oral evidence, formal comments, submissions, statements of evidence or presentations to the Panel but are not on the public record (as identified in the attached Collation Table), please attach them or indicate where they can be accessed.*

N/A

Nāku rā,



Mitchell Ritai  
Pouwhakahaere  
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga

