

NGAATI TAHINGA CULTURAL VALUES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NorthWestern Mussels Limited

Waikato West Coast Mussel Spat Nursery

Prepared for Ngaati Tahinga / Ngaa Uri o Tahinga

Draft for Whaanau, Hapuu and Kaitiaki Review

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1. Executive Summary

Ngaati Tahinga holds an enduring relationship with the whenua, takutai moana and moana of its rohe, founded on whakapapa, tikanga, Maatauranga Maori, mana moana and kaitiakitanga. The NorthWestern Mussels Limited (NWML) proposal would establish a mussel spat catching and nursery operation on the Waikato west coast.

The referral material describes approximately 540 hectares across three blocks and 11 rows, approximately 3–5 km offshore from Te Kotuku Stream Te Akau to Te Puaha o Waikato.

NWML has recorded engagement with Ngaati Tahinga and other iwi organisations and has offered to transfer ownership of 20% of any consented space to a representative Waikato coastal hapuu and marae entity. This offer is an opportunity for economic participation, but it must not be treated as compensation for cultural effects or as a substitute for mana moana, kaitiakitanga or meaningful decision-making.

The central cultural question is: Can the activity occur without diminishing the mauri of the moana, Ngaati Tahinga's mana moana, customary relationships, kaitiakitanga, mahinga kai and the interests of future generations?

This CVIA identifies potential effects on mauri, customary fishing, access, taonga species, seabed and water quality, marine mammals, biosecurity, marine debris, waahi taonga, Maatauranga Maori, wairua and cumulative/intergenerational values. It recommends a Ngaati Tahinga Cultural Management Plan, cultural monitoring, enforceable adaptive management, data sovereignty and meaningful participation throughout the life of the project.

2. Ngaati Tahinga – Te Taiao, Te Awa me Te Moana

For Ngaati Tahinga, the fish, shellfish, freshwater species, marine species and other taonga of Te Taiao are intrinsically connected to the health and wellbeing of the whenua, ngaa awa and Te Moana.

The following list identifies species recognised as having cultural, customary, ecological and mahinga kai significance within the Ngaati Tahinga rohe. These species represent an important component of the relationship between Ngaati Tahinga, Te Taiao and the customary use and protection of natural resources.

Particular importance should be given to the protection of taonga species, their habitats, feeding and spawning areas, migration pathways and the wider mauri of the freshwater, estuarine and marine environments.

For Ngaati Tahinga, the protection of these species is inseparable from the protection of the mauri of Te Taiao and the ability of current and future generations to maintain their customary relationships with the whenua, ngaa wai and Te Moana.

The list is not intended to be exhaustive. Additional species may be identified through maatauranga Maaori, koorero tuku iho, whaanau knowledge, cultural monitoring, ecological surveys and engagement with mana whenua.

Ngaati Tahinga Taonga Species

Maaori Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Werewere	Barnacle	<i>Chamaesipho</i> spp.; <i>Balanus decorus</i> and others
Paatiki Mohoao	Black flounder	<i>Rhombosolea retiaria</i>
Kupara / Pukeru	John Dory	<i>Zeus faber</i>
Pakaurua / Waewae / Whai / Uku	Skate	<i>Raja nasuta</i>
Araara	Trevally	<i>Caranx georgianus</i>
Haku	Kingfish	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>
Inanga	Whitebait	<i>Galaxias</i> spp.
Kaaeo / Kaakahi	Freshwater mussel	<i>Hyridella</i> spp.
Kahawai	Kahawai	<i>Arripis trutta</i>
Kanae	Grey mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Kanae	Yellow-eyed mullet	<i>Aldrichetta forsteri</i>
Karingo / Karengo	Seaweed	Various species
Kina	Sea urchin	<i>Evechinus chloroticus</i>
Kookota	Flat cockle	<i>Paphies australis</i>
Kotore Moana	Sea anemone	<i>Actinia tenebrosa</i>
Kooura / Waikooura	Freshwater crayfish	<i>Paranephrops</i> spp.
Kooura	Crayfish / Rock lobster	<i>Jasus</i> s
Kumukumu	Gurnard / Red gurnard	<i>Chelidonichthys kumu</i>
Kuutai	Mussel	<i>Perna canaliculus</i> ; <i>Xenostrobus pulex</i> and others
Manaia	Seahorse	<i>Hippocampus abdominalis</i>
Mangaa	Barracouta	<i>Thyrsites atun</i>
Mango / Mako	Shark / School shark	<i>Galeorhinus australis</i>
Matamata	Whitebait species	<i>Galaxias</i> spp.
Moki	Red moki	<i>Cheilodactylus spectabilis</i>
Ngoro	—	—
Paaka / Whai	Short-tailed & long-tailed stingray	<i>Dasyatis brevicaudatus</i> ; <i>Dasyatis thetidis</i>
Paapaka	Crab	<i>Ovalipes catharus</i> ; <i>Plagusia chabrus</i>
Parore	Black snapper / Sea bream	<i>Girella tricuspidata</i>
Paatiki	Yellow-belly / Sand flounder	<i>Rhombosolea leporina</i> ; <i>Rhombosolea plebeia</i>
Paaua	Pāua	<i>Haliotis</i> spp.
Peraro	Mollusc / Pipi	<i>Tellina gaimardi</i> ; <i>Zenatia acinaces</i>
Piharau	Lamprey	<i>Geotria australis</i>
Pioke	Rig / Spotted dogfish	<i>Mustelus lenticulatus</i>
Pipi	Flat pipi and others	<i>Chione stutchburyi</i> ; <i>Paphies australis</i> and others
Porohe	Whitebait species	<i>Galaxias</i> spp.

Maaori Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Puupuu	Black snail / Green snail / Cat's eye	<i>Turbo smaragdus</i> ; <i>Zeiloma</i> spp. and others
Taamure / Tamore	Red snapper	<i>Chrysophrys auratus</i>
Tarakihi	Tarakihi	<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>
Tio	Pacific oyster / New Zealand rock oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> ; <i>Ostrea glomerata</i>
Tuangi	Cockle	<i>Austrovenus stutchburyi</i> ; <i>Protothaca crassicosta</i>
Tuatua	Mollusc / Tuatua	<i>Paphies subtriangulata</i> ; <i>Paphies donacina</i>
Tuna – Pararua	Shortfin eel	<i>Anguilla australis</i>
Tuna – Rino	Longfin eel	<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>
Tuna	Glass eel / Elver	<i>Anguilla</i> spp.
Tupa	Scallop	<i>Pecten novaezelandiae</i>
Tuna	Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus</i> spp.
Wheke	Octopus	<i>Octopus maorum</i>

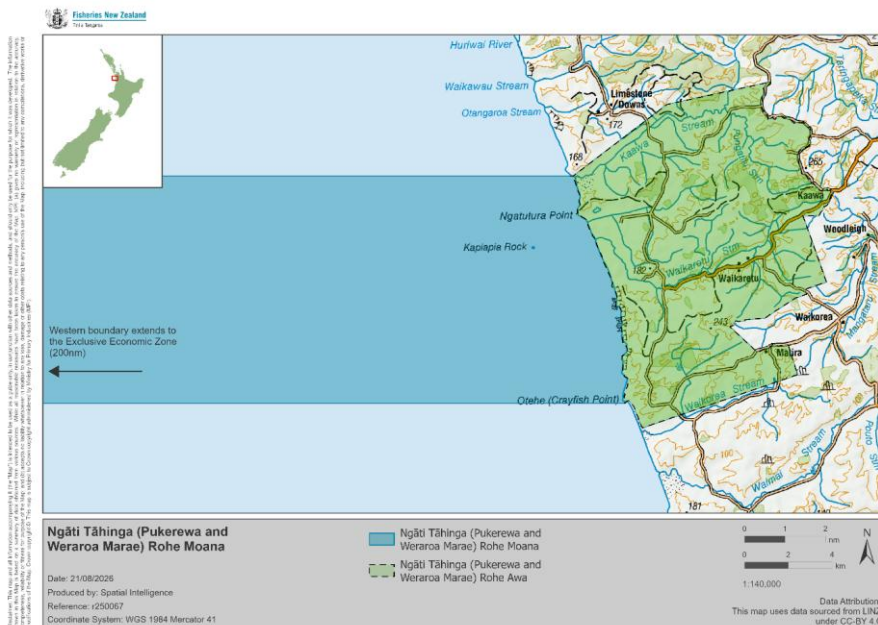
3. Ngaati Tahinga Rohe Moana

The map below identifies the **rohe moana of Ngaati Tahinga**, extending along the west coast from **Te Kootuku Stream at Te Akau through to Port Waikato**. This area represents an important customary marine area for Ngaati Tahinga and reflects the longstanding relationship between the hapuu, the moana, ngaa awa, ngaa takutai moana and the resources they sustain.

The **Fisheries New Zealand (Fisheries NZ) map** is referenced to provide a recognised spatial representation of the Ngaati Tahinga rohe moana and to assist in identifying the marine area within which customary interests, traditional fishing practices, fisheries resources and cultural values are considered.

For Ngaati Taahinga, the rohe moana is more than a geographical boundary. It encompasses **mana moana, whakapapa, maatauranga, mahinga kai, customary fisheries and the intergenerational responsibilities of kaitiakitanga**. The health and wellbeing of the marine environment are intrinsically connected to the health and wellbeing of the hapuu and its whaanau.

Ngaati Tahinga Rohe Moana Map



Source: Fisheries New Zealand – map of the Ngaati Tahinga rohe moana. The Fisheries NZ map provides a spatial reference only and does not replace or diminish Ngaati Tahinga's own maatauranga, whakapapa, customary knowledge or authority in relation to its rohe moana.¹

4. NGA HAPUU O TE URU TAINUI CUSTOMARY FISHERIES FORUM.

1. Acknowledgement of Whanaungatanga and Neighbouring Relationships

Ngaati Tahinga acknowledges the **whanaungatanga and longstanding relationships** shared with neighbouring hapuu and iwi within and adjoining the rohe moana. These relationships are grounded in **whakapapa, shared histories, tikanga, customary practices and collective responsibilities** as kaitiaki of te taiao.

For Ngaati Tahinga, **rohe are not simply lines drawn in the sand or fixed boundaries**. Hapuu and iwi rohe can overlap through whakapapa, shared customary use, fishing grounds, mahinga kai and longstanding relationships with the wheenua and moana. These areas of overlap are understood through **whakapapa, tikanga and whanaungatanga**, rather than solely by mapped boundaries.

Where rohe, customary fishing areas or cultural interests overlap, Ngaati Tahinga recognises the importance of **respect, communication, cooperation and manaakitanga**, ensuring that the mana and relationships of neighbouring hapuu and iwi are respected and upheld.

¹ <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/71091-Nga-Hapuu-o-Te-Uru-o-Tainui-Customary-Fisheries-Forum-management-plan-focus-of-2025-2030>

2. CUSTOMARY FORUM VISION

To preserve, sustain and enhance the fisheries me ona tikanga.

CUSTOMARY FORUM PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

In order to meet the purpose, objectives and achieve the outcomes of this plan, the following principles will be used to underpin the development and conduct of collaborative relationships:

1. TREATY OF WAITANGI – we affirm the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of New Zealand. The articles of the Treaty outline the entitlements and responsibilities of both the iwi and the Crown;
2. KAITIAKITANGA – the health of the fishery for future generations is paramount;
3. MANAAKITANGA – when people come to our marae, we will look after them;
4. WHANAUNGATANGA – our relationships and connections with people are important to us.

We seek to actively influence fisheries management decisions and acknowledge, longer term, that the customary forum alone cannot assure the wellbeing of the fisheries within te uru. We recognise the need to develop relationships with our commercial fisheries arms and whanaunga in neighbouring rohe.

3. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this CVIA is to identify Ngaati Tahinga cultural values associated with the affected marine environment, assess potential impacts of the proposed activity, and establish measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects.

This assessment is intended to sit alongside technical ecological, marine mammal, seabed, fisheries, navigation and biosecurity assessments. It provides the Ngaati Tahinga cultural lens through which those assessments should be considered.

The document is a draft for Ngaati Tahinga validation. Sensitive cultural information, including wāhi tapu, waahi taonga, customary fishing locations and Maatauranga, should only be included with explicit approval.

4. Project Description

NWML proposes a mussel spat catching and nursery operation in the coastal marine area of the Waikato west coast. The referral describes approximately 540 hectares, three blocks and 11 rows, about 3–5 km offshore from Te Kootuku Stream to Te Puaha o Waikato, with associated marine farm structures and servicing vessels.

The purpose of the nursery is to provide a resilient source of mussel spat and seed for the wider mussel industry. NWML identifies economic, employment and aquaculture-development opportunities associated with the proposal.

The project also has potential implications for marine space, customary access, seabed condition, water-column processes, indigenous biodiversity, navigation, biosecurity and marine wildlife.

4. Cultural Assessment Principles

- Whakapapa: The moana is part of a living network of relationships between whenua, wai, awa, takutai, moana, tangata, atua and mokopuna.
- Mauri: The health of the moana is reflected not only in scientific measurements but also in the health and abundance of kaimoana, water condition, species diversity, customary use, seasonal patterns and whaanau observations.
- Mana moana: Ngaati Tahinga must retain meaningful recognition, authority and influence over activities affecting its marine relationship.
- Kaitiakitanga: Kaitiakitanga is an active responsibility to monitor, protect, restore and maintain Te Taiao. Consultation alone is not kaitiakitanga.
- Maatauranga Maori: Ngaati Tahinga Maatauranga is taonga and must remain under Ngaati Tahinga control. It must not be extracted, published or commercially used without agreement.
- Whaanau and mokopuna: The assessment must consider whether future generations will inherit a healthy, accessible and culturally functioning moana.

5. Ngaati Tahinga Cultural Values

Key values to be confirmed and expanded by Ngaati Tahinga include: mauri whakapapa, mana moana, kaitiakitanga, mahinga kai, customary fishing, taonga species, wairua, Maatauranga Maori, waahi tapu, waahi taonga, customary access and intergenerational wellbeing.

6. Existing Cultural Environment

The coastal environment is a living cultural landscape. The baseline should include customary fishing, mahinga kai, kaimoana, marine mammal and seabird observations, customary access, waka activity, waahi tapu and waahi taonga, culturally significant reefs and fishing grounds, seasonal harvesting patterns, species abundance and known environmental pressures. Ngaati Tahinga should determine which cultural locations can be publicly mapped and which must remain confidential.

7. Potential Cultural Effects

- Occupation of marine space may change where and how customary activities occur. Even where safe navigation remains available, a large commercial footprint can affect the practical relationship between whaanau and the moana.
- Mauri may be affected through seabed deposition, water-column changes, biosecurity events, disease, marine debris, species changes and cumulative ecological effects.
- Mahinga kai and customary fishing may be affected through access constraints, changes in species distribution, vessel activity or changes in habitat.
- Taonga species may be affected through habitat alteration, disturbance, entanglement, disease or food-web changes.
- Biosecurity failure could affect taonga species and customary fisheries well beyond the farm footprint and may create long-term or irreversible effects.
- Marine mammals and seabirds require strong protection, with particular attention to Maui dolphin and any other culturally significant species.
- Waahi tapu and waahi taonga may not be fully identified in public databases. An accidental discovery protocol is therefore required.
- Maatauranga Maori and cultural data require protection, ownership and access controls determined by Ngaati Tahinga.

8. Cultural Values and Impact Assessment

Cultural value	Potential impact	Pre-mitigation	Key mitigation	Residual
Mauri	Ecosystem, seabed and water-column change	High	Mauri monitoring, baseline, thresholds, adaptive management	Low-Moderate
Mana moana	Occupation of marine space	High	Formal Ngaati Tahinga governance and decision-making	Moderate
Kaitiakitanga	Reduced ability to exercise guardianship	High	Funded cultural monitoring and decision role	Low-Moderate
Mahinga kai	Access/species effects	High	Customary fishing assessment and monitoring	Moderate
Taonga species	Habitat or population effects	High	Species monitoring and incident response	Low-Moderate
Maatauranga Maori	Extraction or inappropriate disclosure	High	Data sovereignty and consent protocols	Low
Wairua	Change in cultural relationship with moana	Moderate	Cultural monitoring and tikanga	Low-Moderate
Waahi tapu/taonga	Potential disturbance	High	Confidential mapping and discovery protocol	Low
Marine mammals	Disturbance or entanglement	High	Marine Wildlife Management Plan and response thresholds	Low-Moderate
Biosecurity	Disease/invasive organism risk	High	Biosecurity Management Plan and rapid response	Low-Moderate
Seabed	Deposition and habitat change	Moderate-High	Baseline and annual benthic monitoring	Low-Moderate
Water quality	Nutrients, contaminants, spills	Moderate	Baseline and ongoing monitoring	Low
Customary access	Restricted use of marine space	Moderate-High	Customary access protocol	Low-Moderate
Future generations	Long-term cumulative effects	High	Intergenerational review and no expansion without CIA	Moderate

9. Mitigation and Cultural Management Framework

The mitigation hierarchy is avoid cultural harm first; remedy where harm cannot be avoided; mitigate residual effects through measurable and enforceable measures. Financial or commercial benefits must not be treated as substitutes for protection of mauri, mana moana, customary practice or taonga.

Issue	Required mitigation	Timing	Responsibility
Mauri	Ngaati Tahinga Mauri Monitoring Programme	Before construction and ongoing	NWML + Ngaati Tahinga
Mana moana	Formal cultural governance and decision-making structure	Before consent/operation	NWML + Ngaati Tahinga
Mahinga kai	Customary fishing/access baseline and monitoring	Before construction and ongoing	Joint
Taonga species	Cultural species register and monitoring	Before operation and ongoing	Joint
Marine mammals	Marine Wildlife Management Plan with Ngaati Tahinga role	Before operation and ongoing	NWML + Ngaati Tahinga
Biosecurity	Biosecurity Management Plan and cultural incident response	Before operation and ongoing	NWML
Seabed	Baseline and annual sediment/benthic monitoring	Before operation and annual	Joint/technical
Water quality	Baseline and quarterly monitoring	Before operation and quarterly	Joint/technical
Marine debris	Lost gear register and immediate retrieval	Ongoing	NWML
Waahi taonga	Confidential cultural mapping and accidental discovery protocol	Before works	NWML + Ngaati Tahinga
Maatauranga	Data ownership, confidentiality and access agreement	Before information sharing	Ngaati Tahinga
Expansion/renewal	New cultural assessment before expansion or renewal	As triggered	NWML + Ngaati Tahinga
Decommissioning	Cultural restoration and post-decommissioning monitoring	Before closure	NWML + Ngaati Tahinga

10. Cultural Monitoring Framework

Indicator	Method	Frequency	Trigger/response
Mauri	Cultural assessment + scientific indicators	Seasonal/annual	Decline → investigate/adapt
Water quality	Water sampling + cultural observations	Quarterly	Threshold exceeded → corrective action
Seabed	Sediment/benthic survey	Annual	Significant change → review
Kaimoana	Species surveys + customary observations	Seasonal	Decline → investigate
Marine mammals	Visual/acoustic observation	Ongoing/seasonal	Injury/death → immediate response
Seabirds	Counts/observations	Seasonal	Significant change → review
Marine debris	Farm/site inspections	Monthly	Lost gear → retrieve/report
Customary access	Whaanau reporting	Ongoing	Access impeded → resolve
Biosecurity	Surveillance	Ongoing	Pest/pathogen → incident response
Cultural wellbeing	Hui/whaanau assessment	Annual	Significant concern → cultural review

11. Ngaati Tahinga Whaanau-Led Cultural Effects and Navigational Monitoring Framework

This framework provides a **Ngaati Tahinga-led approach to monitoring the cultural, environmental, customary and navigational effects** associated with the NorthWestern Mussel Limited (NWML) mussel spat farm and the vessels travelling to and from the farm.

The framework is based on the principle that **Ngaati Tahinga whaanau are kaitiaki of their relationship with the moana** and therefore need to be directly involved in identifying, observing, recording and responding to changes.

1. Purpose of the Framework

Purpose	What will be monitored
Protect the mauri of the moana	Water condition, marine life, seabed, debris and other changes
Protect Ngaati Tahinga cultural values	Whakapapa, waahi of significance, mana moana, kaitiakitanga and customary relationships
Protect kai moana	Abundance, health, location and availability of customary species
Protect customary fishing	Access, fishing locations, fishing success and displacement

Purpose	What will be monitored
Monitor navigational route	NWML's Vessel frequency, route, speed, wake, noise and interactions with whaanau
Protect whaanau safety	Near misses, vessel interactions and changes to safe navigation
Monitor taonga species	Fish, shellfish, marine mammals and birdlife
Support mātauranga Ngaati	Whaanau observations, tohu, seasonal knowledge and cultural indicators
Protect future generations	Long-term and cumulative changes to the moana

2. Ngaati Tahinga Whaanau Monitoring Roopuu:

A Ngaati Tahinga Whaanau Monitoring Roopuu should be established to undertake the monitoring.

Role	Responsibility
Whaanau Kaitiaki Coordinator	Coordinate the programme, roster monitors and maintain communication with NWML
Whaanau Kaitiaki Monitors	Undertake field monitoring from the whenua and moana
Navigational Monitors	Record NWML vessel movements and interactions with whaanau
Kai Moana Monitors	Monitor customary species and fishing areas
Mātauranga Ngaati Monitor	Record cultural observations, tohu and whaanau knowledge
Kaumaatua/Cultural Advisor	Provide cultural interpretation and guidance
Data Coordinator	Maintain GPS, photographs, monitoring forms and database
Ngaati Tahinga Governance/Representative Group	Review findings and determine appropriate responses

Whaanau participation should be resourced. Monitoring should not rely solely on unpaid voluntary labour where the programme is being used to satisfy consent or environmental monitoring requirements.

3. Cultural Effects Monitoring

Cultural value	Indicator	Monitoring method	Frequency	Trigger
Mauri	Water clarity, colour, smell and overall condition	Whaanau observation, photographs and water testing where appropriate	Monthly	Sustained deterioration
Kai moana	Species presence, abundance, size and health	Whaanau observations and customary fishing records	Monthly/seasonal	Decline in abundance/condition

Cultural value	Indicator	Monitoring method	Frequency	Trigger
Customary fishing	Fishing access and success	Whaanau fishing observations	Every fishing trip	Reduced access or significant decline
Mana moana	Ability to exercise kaitiakitanga	Whaanau feedback and monitoring	Quarterly	Reduced ability to exercise kaitiakitanga
Whakapapa	Changes to culturally significant species/places	Waananga and whaanau kōrero	6-monthly	Loss/disruption of cultural relationship
Wāhi significance	Physical or visual changes	GPS/photo monitoring where appropriate	Quarterly	Disturbance or restricted access
Marine species	Fish, shellfish, birds and marine mammals	Species observations	Every monitoring visit	Unusual decline/mortality
Seabed	Sediment, scouring or physical change	Visual monitoring	Quarterly	Significant change
Marine debris	Ropes, plastics, farm materials	Record, photograph and GPS	Every visit	Repeated/significant debris
Noise	Vessel/farm noise	Observation and whaanau kōrero	During activity	Significant disturbance
Whaanau relationship with moana	Ability to safely access and enjoy customary areas	Whaanau survey/kōrero	Quarterly	Reduced use or connection
Mokopuna interests	Long-term cultural health	Annual cultural assessment	Annual	Evidence of cumulative decline

4. Navigational Monitoring Framework: The navigational route must be monitored separately from the spat farm because vessel movements can create effects even when the farm itself is operating within its conditions.

Monitoring factor	What Ngaati Tahinga will record	Method
Vessel identification	Vessel name/number	Observation
Date and time	Each observed movement	Monitoring register
Route	Actual route travelled	GPS/map
Frequency	Number of trips	Monitoring register
Direction	Inbound/outbound movement	Observation
Speed	Approximate speed	Observation/available vessel data
Wake	None, low, moderate or high	Visual observation
Noise	Level and disturbance	Whaanau observation
Fishing activity	Whaanau fishing during vessel movement	Observation
Near misses	Close approaches or dangerous interactions	Incident form

Monitoring factor	What Ngaati Tahinga will record	Method
Access	Whether vessel movements interfere with customary use	Whaanau feedback
Marine mammals	Species and behaviour	Sightings register
Birdlife	Changes/disturbance	Observation
Night operations	Lighting and vessel movements	Observation
Weather/sea conditions	Conditions at time of movement	Monitoring form
Pollution/debris	Oil, rubbish, ropes or equipment	Photo/GPS/incident form

5. Ngaati Tahinga Cultural Impact Rating: Ngaati Tahinga should retain the ability to assess effects according to **cultural significance**, rather than relying solely on technical environmental standards.

Rating	Cultural status	Response
 GREEN	Mauri and cultural values maintained	Continue normal monitoring
 YELLOW	Emerging concern or minor change	Increase monitoring and notify NWML
 ORANGE	Significant adverse cultural effect	Formal engagement and mitigation required
 RED	Serious adverse effect on cultural values, safety or customary use	Immediate escalation and review
UNACCEPTABLE	Ongoing or potentially irreversible cultural impact	Require immediate consideration of additional controls, adaptive management or other appropriate action

6. Reporting to Ngaati Tahinga: The monitoring programme should produce a **quarterly Ngaati Tahinga Cultural Monitoring Report** containing:

1. Number of monitoring visits completed.
2. Number of NWML vessel movements observed.
3. Vessel route information.
4. Customary fishing observations.
5. Kai moana observations.
6. Marine mammal and taonga species observations.
7. Water and seabed observations.
8. Marine debris or pollution incidents.
9. Safety incidents and near misses.
10. Whaanau concerns.
11. Cultural indicator results.
12. Changes to the mauri of the moana.
13. Mitigation undertaken by NWML.
14. Whether mitigation has been effective.
15. Recommendations for the next monitoring period.

10. Proposed Consent Requirement

Ngaati Tahinga shall have the opportunity to establish and maintain a whaanau-led cultural effects and navigational monitoring programme for the duration of the activity. The programme shall monitor the effects of the mussel spat farm and associated vessel movements on the mauri of the moana, customary fishing, kai moana, marine and coastal species, navigational safety, access, mana moana, kaitiakitanga, whakapapa and the relationship of Ngaati Tahinga with the moana.

The monitoring programme shall incorporate maatauranga Maori, whaanau observations and cultural indicators alongside relevant scientific and environmental information. Monitoring shall include the spat farm and the navigational route used by NWML vessels.

NWML shall provide Ngaati Tahinga with reasonable access to information necessary to undertake effective monitoring, including relevant vessel movement information, operating schedules, incidents and environmental monitoring results.

The costs of establishing and maintaining the Ngaati Tahinga monitoring programme, including appropriate training, equipment, travel, data management, whaanau participation and reporting, shall be adequately resourced by the consent holder.

Commented [RC1]: So 80% NWML and 20% Ngati Tahinga?

Where Ngaati Tahinga monitoring identifies an adverse cultural effect, the matter shall be formally considered by Ngaati Tahinga and the consent holder, with appropriate mitigation, adaptive management or further investigation undertaken where required.

11. Governance, Partnership and 20% Ownership Offer

NWML's referral material records engagement with Ngaati Tahinga and other iwi organisations and an offer to transfer ownership of 20% of any consented space to a representative Waikato coastal hapuu and marae entity.

The 20% offer should be considered an economic and governance opportunity, not mitigation or compensation for cultural effects.

Ngaati Tahinga should require clarity on the entity that would hold the interest, governance rights, financial benefits- sharing, liabilities, decision-making rights, treatment if the consent area changes, distribution of benefits to whaanau/hapuu, and the relationship between ownership and cultural authority.

Meaningful participation should include cultural monitoring, access to information, governance, incident response, adaptive management and review of consent conditions.

12. Adaptive Management and Recommended Consent Conditions

If monitoring demonstrates that the activity is causing cultural or environmental harm, management must change. A red-level incident should allow immediate investigation, Ngaati Tahinga notification, corrective action and, where necessary, temporary suspension.

- No construction until the Ngaati Tahinga Cultural Management Plan is approved.
- Permanent cultural monitoring for the life of the consent.
- Completion of cultural and ecological baseline assessments before construction.
- Ngaati Tahinga approval of cultural indicators and monitoring methodology.
- Immediate notification of serious marine mammal events, biosecurity incidents, significant pollution, major lost gear and cultural discoveries.

- Enforceable adaptive-management thresholds.
- No expansion without a new cultural assessment.
- New cultural assessment before consent renewal.
- Ngaati Tahinga ownership and control of its Maatauranga Maori and cultural data.
- Maintenance of customary access wherever safely practicable.
- Ngaati Tahinga participation in decommissioning and restoration.

13. Intergenerational and Cumulative Effects

The proposal must be assessed in combination with existing and future aquaculture, commercial and recreational fishing, shipping, coastal development, pollution, sedimentation and climate change. A minor individual effect may contribute to a significant cumulative effect.

Before expansion or renewal, NWML should support a Ngaati Tahinga intergenerational cultural review addressing marine-space occupation, customary access, mahinga kai, taonga species, Maatauranga, cumulative effects and the interests of mokopuna.

14. Cultural Acceptability Test

Test	Question
Mauri	Will the project maintain or enhance the mauri of the moana?
Mana moana	Will Ngaati Tahinga retain meaningful authority and influence?
Kaitiakitanga	Can Ngaati Tahinga exercise kaitiakitanga throughout the project?
Mahinga kai	Will customary access and gathering remain viable?
Taonga species	Will culturally important species remain healthy and abundant?
Maatauranga	Will Ngaati Tahinga retain ownership and control of its knowledge?
Future generations	Will mokopuna inherit a healthy and culturally functioning moana?
Cumulative effects	Does the project contribute to unacceptable cumulative change?
Partnership	Is there genuine participation, governance and benefit?
Accountability	Are protections enforceable rather than aspirational?

15. Conclusion

Ngaati Tahinga acknowledges the potential economic and employment opportunities associated with the NWML proposal and the wider aquaculture sector. However, economic opportunity cannot override the responsibility to protect Te Taiao and the relationship between Ngaati Tahinga and the moana.

The proposal should only be considered culturally acceptable where the mauri of the moana, mana moana, kaitiakitanga, mahinga kai, customary access, taonga species, Maatauranga Maori and intergenerational interests are demonstrably protected.

The strongest mitigation is meaningful Ngaati Tahinga authority, participation, monitoring, adaptive management and the ability to require change where the health of the moana is being compromised.

Development must occur within the limits of the mauri of the moana, not at the expense of it.

The final cultural position should remain subject to Ngaati Tahinga review and validation of the cultural baseline, maps, customary fishing information, proposed management measures, ownership proposal, monitoring framework and consent conditions.

Appendix A — Ngaati Tahinga Cultural Indicators

Value	Possible indicators
Mauri	Water condition, species abundance, ecosystem condition, whaanau observations
Mahinga kai	Availability, abundance, size/condition, seasonal patterns, ability to harvest
Kaitiakitanga	Participation, monitoring, decision-making and response capability
Mana moana	Recognition, authority, access, governance and influence
Maatauranga	Knowledge transmission, protection, rangatahi and kaumaatua participation
Wairua	Cultural connection, whaanau confidence and observed environmental change
Mokopuna	Future access, mahinga kai, cultural knowledge and healthy moana

Appendix B — Cultural Effect Significance Scale

Level	Meaning
Very Low	No meaningful cultural effect identified.
Low	Potential cultural effect that can be readily avoided or managed.
Moderate	Cultural relationship may be affected and requires active mitigation and monitoring.
High	Significant potential to affect cultural values, customary practices or kaitiakitanga.
Very High	Potential for irreversible or significant diminution of mauri, mana moana, customary relationships, wāhi taonga, taonga species or intergenerational cultural values.

Appendix C — Questions for NWML

- What are the precise coordinates and footprint of each proposed block?
- What structures will be installed and what is the consent duration?
- How many vessels will service the nursery and how frequently?
- What is the source of the spat and what biosecurity controls apply?
- What are the response and shutdown thresholds for marine mammal interactions?
- How will customary fishing and access be protected?
- What baseline information has been collected about customary use?
- What seabed, water-quality and biodiversity monitoring will occur?
- Who owns the monitoring data and how will Ngaati Tahinga access it?
- Who funds cultural monitoring and technical review?
- What exactly does the proposed 20% ownership provide?
- What happens to the ownership interest if the consent footprint changes?
- What happens if the project expands or the consent is renewed?
- How will cumulative effects be assessed?
- What happens if Ngaati Tahinga monitoring identifies cultural harm?

Appendix D –Whaanau Monitoring Process

Whaanau Observation

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Record / Photograph / GPS

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Whaanau Monitoring Database

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Cultural Assessment

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Kaitiaki Roopuu Review

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Ngaati Tahinga Governance Review

↓

Engagement with NWML

↓

Mitigation / Adaptive Management

↓

Follow-up Monitoring

↓

Quarterly Cultural Monitoring Report

Appendix E. Whaanau Monitoring Record

Each monitor should be able to complete a simple record:

Field	Record
Date	
Time	
Monitor	
Location	
GPS	
Weather	
Sea conditions	
NWML vessel observed	Yes / No
Vessel	
Direction	
Approximate route	
Approximate speed	
Number of vessels	
Whaanau fishing present	Yes / No
Interference with fishing	Yes / No
Wake	None / Low / Moderate / High
Marine mammals	
Fish/kai moana	
Water condition	Good / Moderate / Poor
Debris	Yes / No

Field	Record
Cultural observation	
Safety concern	Yes / No
Photograph	Yes / No
GPS/photo reference	
Further action required	Yes / No
Monitor comments	

Appendix F: Monitoring Frequency

Activity	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	6-Monthly	Annual
Vessel route monitoring	✓	✓	✓		
Vessel frequency	✓	✓	✓		
Customary fishing	✓	✓	✓		
Kai moana		✓	✓	✓	✓
Marine mammals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water condition		✓	✓	✓	✓
Marine debris	✓	✓	✓		
Seabed			✓	✓	✓
Cultural indicators		✓	✓	✓	✓
Whaanau kōrero			✓	✓	✓
Kaumātua review			✓	✓	✓
NWML performance review			✓		✓
Cultural monitoring report			✓		✓
Mitigation review			✓		✓

Appendix G

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/71091-Nga-Hapuu-o-Te-Uru-o-Tainui-Customary-Fisheries-Forum-management-plan-focus-of-2025-2030>

Appendix H— Sign-off and Ngaati Tahinga Validation

Prepared for: Ngaati Tahinga / Ngaa Uri o Tahinga

Prepared by: _Ngaati Tahinga

Date: _____

Validated by Ngaati Tahinga: _____

Date: _____

Hui / Resolution reference: _____

Note: This is a draft working CVIA and does not replace the authority of Ngaati Tahinga to determine its own cultural position.