



## **Moeraki Mātaaitai Reserve Proposed Bylaws**

### Mātaaitai Vision:

1. The fisheries resources and marine environment of the Moeraki Mātaaitai are protected and enhanced for present and future generations of Ngāi Tahu Whānui to enjoy and use in a sustainable manner.

### Key Objectives of the Mātaaitai Reserve:

2. To ensure customary fishers have access to and use of an abundant supply of healthy mahinga kai in order to sustain their customary practices (including sustaining the functions of Uenuku Marae); and
3. To protect the long-term sustainability of the fisheries resources and the recreational fishing experience within the Moeraki Mātaaitai for present and future generations to use and enjoy.

*Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei  
For us and our children after us*

### Proposed bylaws:

4. To meet these objectives, the Mātaaitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and their Advisory Committee believe Mātaaitai bylaws are necessary in order to enhance pāua stocks.
5. Surveys conducted by the University of Otago in October 2016 showed that 15% of pāua in the mātaaitai were at or above the minimum legal size for recreational fishing. Although this is relatively good compared to other local customary pāua fisheries that have been surveyed such as the East Otago Taiāpure, the Mātaaitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and their Advisory Committee are well aware of the statistically significant reduction in legal-sized pāua in the East Otago Taiāpure (from 14.6% in 2008/2009 down to 4.0% in 2016) and that East Otago is within relatively close proximity to Moeraki with similar pāua habitat and access for pāua fishing.
6. As such the Mātaaitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and their Advisory Committee wish to take proactive steps to prevent any further reduction in pāua stocks and instead rebuild them to the levels of abundance enjoyed by their ancestors.

### *Daily catch limit*

7. To enhance pāua stocks in the mātaimai, the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and their Advisory Committee believe the current recreational bag limit for pāua is far too high and it is totally inconsistent with the underlying customary philosophy of a mātaimai which is focussed on 'catching a feed'.
8. Customary catch will also be constrained by setting a daily catch limit through a mātaimai bylaw.
9. To address concerns over the maximum daily limit for pāua the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and Advisory Committee believe the following bylaw is necessary:

**Bylaw: Maximum daily limit on pāua**

No person may, on any day, take more than three (3) pāua (both blackfoot – *Haliotis iris* and yellowfoot – *Haliotis australis*) from the Moeraki Mātaimai.

### *Restoration of Turaka Waka, Tikoraki and Tawhiroko pāua*

10. Pāua at Turaka Waka, Tikoraki and Tawhiroko were once extremely abundant and were a significant resource for Ngāi Tahu who occupied Te Raka a Hineatea pā at Kātiki Point. Low numbers of pāua were observed at the established long-term monitoring sites in these three areas during surveys conducted by the University of Otago in October 2016. Survey results from the Turaka Waka transects indicate that there are no pāua at 0 m and the mean density of pāua at 0.5 m was 0.2 per m<sup>2</sup> and 1.2 per m<sup>2</sup> at 1-3 m. For Tikoraki there were no blackfoot pāua in the three, depth-stratified transects and for Tawhiroko the results were slightly lower than Turaka Waka (0.1 per m<sup>2</sup> at 0 m, 0.2 per m<sup>2</sup> at 0.5 m and 0.1 per m<sup>2</sup> at 1-3 m).
11. Fishers struggle to find pāua in these areas, but fishing pressure is increasing according to local observations. The potential to lose aggregations of pāua required for successful breeding is significant.
12. Therefore in order to address the issue of depleted pāua stocks in the Turaka Waka and Tikoraki/Tawhiroko areas of the Mātaimai (refer to Map 1 below), the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and Advisory Committee believe that rāhui on harvesting pāua are necessary to allow these pāua populations to be replenished (natural restoration will be supplemented by the translocation of sub-legal, adult pāua from the Moeraki Point and Whiskey Gully areas of the Mātaimai under customary authorisation).
13. The Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki will also place a prohibition on authorising customary pāua fishing to "sustain the functions of the marae", as provided for by regulation 27 of the South Island customary

regulations, from the Turaka Waka and Tikoraki/Tawhiroko areas of the Mātaitai.

14. The Mātaitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and Advisory Committee are proposing open-ended rāhui that will be reviewed every three years against the best available information. Over the closure period an 'opening' mātaimai bylaw regime can be developed.
15. The bylaws can be worded as follows:

**Bylaw: Prohibition on taking pāua from the Turaka Waka area within the Moeraki Reserve.**

- (1) No person may, on any day, take any pāua (both blackfoot – *Haliotis iris* and yellowfoot – *Haliotis australis*) from the Turaka Waka and Tikoraki/Tawhiroko areas lying within the Moeraki Mātaitai Reserve.
- (2) For the purposes of this bylaw, the Turaka Waka area commences at a point at approximately 45°23.60'S 170°52.10'E; then following the mean high-water springs mark in a southerly direction to a point at approximately 45°23.67'S 170°52.11'E; then proceeding due east for approximately 200m to a point at approximately 45°23.67'S 170°52.22'E; then proceeding due north to a point at approximately 45°23.60'S 170°52.22'E; then proceeding due west to the point of commencement.
- (3) For the purposes of this bylaw, the Tikoraki/Tawhiroko area commences at a point at approximately 45°22.26'S 170°52.08'E; then proceeding due east to the seaward boundary of the mātaimai at approximately 45°22.26'S 170°52.21'E; then proceeding north-northwest to a point at approximately 45°22.16'S 170°52.21'E; then proceeding northwest to a point at approximately 45°21.89'S 170°52.09'E then proceeding west southwest to a point on the mean high-water springs mark at approximately 45°21.94'S 170°51.79'E then following the mean high-water springs mark to the point of commencement.

