

## Tangata whenua led aquaculture in Te Tai Tokerau- meeting notes

**Date**: 23 November 2022

**Time**: 11am – 3pm

**Venue**: Boardroom, Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa Offices, 2 Clark Street, Kerikeri.

**Notes taken by:** Michael Nielsen and Monique Hatfull (MPI)

**Participants**:

|  |  |  |
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**Agenda**

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|  | **Kaupapa** | **Ko wai** | **Te wa** |
| 1 | Karakia timatanga | To be delivered by tangata whenua | 11am |
| 2 | Whakawhanaungatanga | All – starting with tangata whenua | 11.05am |
| 3 | Presentation * Ko wai matou?
* Snapshot of aquaculture in Te Tai Tokerau
* What is an opportunities assessment?
* Te Moana a Toi opportunities assessment
* Q and A
 | Monique Hatfull | 11.20am |
|  | Lunch |  | 12.50pm |
| 5 | Individual and collective aspirations of tangata whenua in Te Tai Tokerau | Tangata whenua | 1.30pm |
| 6 | Decision: Progress an opportunities assessment in Te Tai Tokerau? | All | 2.00pm |
| 7 | Next steps | All | 2.30pm |
| 8 | Karakia Whakamutunga | To be delivered by tangata whenua | 2.55pm |

**Notes**

Please refer to the slide deck provided.

*(MPI responses are in italics)*

* What role will tangata whenua have in the process? Governance and at working level.
* What impact will takutai moana rights have in this process? Concerns around being denied mana moana through MACA legislation. Concerns around breaching whakapapa with moana. Want to be recognised and included, have been denied in past. Should be entitled by right.
* Iwi authorities are mitigated by having full and final settlement – no way to call for redress.
* Need to be able to exercise our kaitiakitanga.
* *MPI: this work is not about settlements, but about Crown being a good Treaty partner, which hasn’t been in the past. This project must be ‘by tangata whenua, for tangata whenua’. Crown is supporting, but not the Crown coming here to tell you what to do. Ultimately if the project goes ahead, the use of the information and results from the project will be decided by tangata whenua.*
* Key constraints – also mentioned RM reform, National Māori Entity, etc – budgeted to do work through RM reform for putting Māori in system development.
* ‘What is an opportunities assessment’ slide:
	+ Need to be careful about first paragraph (particularly ‘give effect to rangatiratanga’) – don’t need to use our words to give Māori a ‘g-up’ – not up to Māori to fix something that they didn’t break; have been excluded from NZ’s economic development – the Treaty Settlements are very small proportion of asset value returned to Māori for them to be included in the NZ economy – concern that continued expression of thoughts don’t get uplifted to anywhere where it will make a difference for Māori.
	+ *MPI will remove the wording and noted that language/aspirations expressed in presentation, such as ‘rangatiratanga’ and ‘social outcomes’ came from the Te Moana a Toi iwi-led project.*
	+ We can’t change the past, but we can change today if we work together on this.
	+ Need to have agencies supporting aquaculture – consider NRC to be worst council for supporting aquaculture, supporting tangata whenua to apply for water space; council needs to underwrite benthic assessment needed to apply for water space (each is about $250k for a desktop report),
	+ Challenge about relationships between existing farmers and tangata whenua
* What was involved in ‘stage 1’ slide:
	+ What was the scale of the funding and where did it come from?
	+ *MPI responded that we funded this stage internally through our budget (FNZ) with stages 2 and 3 being funded by MPI’s sustainable, food and fibre fund.*
	+ Noted key constraint around investment needed during high-risk early stages of development of aquaculture – Govt has role to play in these stages, e.g., through SFFF and Kānoa. Public investment fund focused on aquaculture specifically, with allocation within that for Māori. Private investment harder to find in early stages – Government involved early to enable projects to get to a point where they can access private funding in later stages (Tipene Kapa-Kingi).

* What was involved in ‘stage 2’ slide?
	+ Interest in the development of IP strategy – Māori need to be party to bioprospecting protection regime
	+ Need to have sustainable jobs for our people – e.g., jobs for nature is only 3 years – uncertainty around what happens next
* *MPI- Importance of getting council into room early, if tangata whenua are wanting to progress this kaupapa*
* What are tangata whenua aspirations around aquaculture?
	+ Hapū- focused aspirations, rather than necessarily iwi-focused;
	+ Marae-based allocation for aquaculture under Fisheries settlement;
	+ gazetted rōhe out to 200nm;
	+ Mataitai etc in this area;
	+ don’t have ability for hapū to work commercially outside of the gazetted area;
	+ hapū would like to choose who we work with in that space;
	+ need to have legislative change to enable hapū to farm in their area (as it stands only have ability to control customary take areas) & need concerted effort for our hapū from govt to deliver this;
	+ Focus on what we can do for ourselves in our own area
* Kahukuraariki:
	+ have successful applied for Vision Mātauranga funding – one part of that was investigating what was involved in applying for marae-based aquaculture – not likely to be economically viable at 1 ha – why can’t they be aggregated by hapū, by iwi? What was the reasoning behind providing for marae-based aquaculture? Māori oyster reserves – what happened to these? Where are they? Who’s using them? Why aren’t there more of them?
	+ Understanding history to know why things happened so we can do something about it.
	+ *MPI will be making some enquiries around marae aquaculture allocations and oyster reserves, and will report back in early 2023*
* As a collective will we get some traction?
* What is the aspirational pathway for this mahi? Is it only within the 12nm jurisdictional boundary under RMA? Noted constraint of MACA is 12nm too, which doesn’t mesh with gazetted areas out to 200nm
* Need to understand what the legislative change is that will enable hapū to farm outside of their gazetted area
* Marae aquaculture under fisheries settlement was a gesture of goodwill on Crown’s perspective – as negotiations were with iwi groups not marae – it’s written into the empowerments deed of the regional council
* Noted differences between Te Tai Tokerau and BOP, including historic settlements delivering water space; social depravation was still controllable in BOP, but has set root here in Te Tai Tokerau, + access to wealth of knowledge and experience through Peter Vitasovich.
* What are the origins of the BOP joint venture that Te Tai Tokerau iwi could use to put in place something?
	+ Common vision, but with individuality maintained within collective
	+ Wealth of harbours and resources within which to undertake aquaculture
	+ Leading in response to the negative social indicators
	+ Need to support this on behalf of our rangatahi
* Muriwhenua Charitable Development Trust:
	+ shared their journey and difficulties in getting access to their own marine space to farm: 2004 submission from the collective – lost by council but found and received by council in 2020. Had to sell assets, tractors etc, to pay for surveys etc. The Council is the ‘landlord’ of our moana.
	+ Need to train rangatahi (currently via NMIT with them coming to Northland) so the skillset is already there once the water space arrives.
* Can’t copy and paste – all of our rohe have different approaches
* Communication will be critical – communication hasn’t been clear and simple – very important that everyone is connected – needs to start from the bottom and go up from there
* Need to make sure that everyone is here – can’t plan if whānau are missing – they still need to be communicated with
* Mussel spat resource is being taken from our backyard – no one is benefiting here from it being distributed beyond Te Tai Tokerau – what do tangata whenua get out of it?
* We want to know where the source of the spat is, and improve retention

*MPI: These releases from the Moana project came out after the hui, see links below:*

[*https://www.moanaproject.org/he-hono-results*](https://www.moanaproject.org/he-hono-results)

[*https://www.moanaproject.org/news/million-dollar-reefs-the-source-of-nz-aquaculture-mussels*](https://www.moanaproject.org/news/million-dollar-reefs-the-source-of-nz-aquaculture-mussels)

* Can’t continue doing things separately – if we want to do something as a collective need to have our own hui – Govt officials don’t need to be in the room, we can come to them with our ideas
* We would love to have a processing facility; employing 700 people with associated business and training opportunities
* Not asking for resources, we’re entitled to them
* Important to try and be creative and think outside the square
* Challenge is it will always take money – but there’s funding out there
* Stevenson Island farm – owned by Westpac mussels – where’s the Māori involvement in farming mussels in Te Tai Tokerau? – there is nothing!
* GLM9, and its role in the mussel sector- it is a massive contributor to GDP.
* The restrictions placed on us- these are the real issues
* These things are doable – just need to step up, awhi one another, make it happen
* Need to have access to spat to apply for the water space in the first place (part of consent conditions).
* Need to resolve Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) issues
* MPI needs to understand what is the piece that is the first step
* *MPI (Mat Bartholomew) summary points*
	+ *Need to get bureaucracy out of the way – our team working to try and do this*
	+ *We don’t have the long memories and history of what has happened here like you all do, so we do need reminding and we acknowledge this history,*
	+ *All about context – Te Moana a Toi isn’t to be copied – we’ve identified Te Tai Tokerau as the next region that might like to undertake a similar approach, to due to the potential, and what we owe the region in terms of its contribution to the aquaculture sector,*
	+ *Complexity – we look at system from compartmentalised boxes, overlapping regulation, settlements, emerging aspects like bioprospecting – how can we maneuverer within this system (investment; regulatory; etc)*
	+ *Tangata whenua-led – we will do everything we can and if we can’t, we can let you know – we will bring you honesty – things we can control, things we can influence, things we can understand, but not fix.*
* Way forward might be for us to be a collective to support development of aquaculture projects across water spaces in Te Tai Tokerau – first step would be to consult amongst ourselves then come back to MPI, and potentially nominate a working/reference group.
* Need clarity on what MPI is offering – support to progress feasibility assessment
* MCDT- There has been an opportunity assessment done via MAPIT – Aquaculture Direct led – all worked around supporting the industry – now at Kānoa funding
* Do we have to work with MPI’s preferred providers for business bases e.g. Aquaculture Direct/Envirostrat?
* *MPI- no, but it will likely have to be a transparent tender process. Would be able to co-design the tender evaluation criteria (i.e. weighting towards local providers, need for kanohi ki te kanohi meetings, te ao Māori experience/skills etc)*

**Next steps**

* Tangata whenua to call a hui with broader group, then potentially develop a working group to further discussions (MPI can support funding for venue / kai; can make connections with BOP iwi if helpful)
* Geraldine to organise communications for hui – likely near end of February (3rd week Feb) – hui participants can send to wider networks (including those who weren’t able to make it today)
* Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa will host hui
* MPI have earmarked $50k for this work this financial year – if it comes to more we can explore finding more funding
* Summary of hui notes to be sent to participants
* Monique Hatfull to be key liaison person from FNZ
* MPI has some actions to follow up on regarding further information - early 2023
* MPI will also send out an outline of a potential project scope, timeframes etc - for the next hui to discuss- by end January 2023
* RM reform webinars to be held in early December (select committee approval pending)
* Future comms also need to come via Nore Martin (Customary Fisheries Forums) for some members (please remind us who has this preference?)- we will also ensure Nore stays informed