



TE RARAWA

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Toheroa Strategic Plan 2022-2030

Return the Mauri of Toheroa to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe



Titiro Whakamuri kia Angawhakamua

Looking Back to Go Forward

“The kaumatua of Te Rarawa ki Ahipara speak about and relate to the mataitai of their foreshore as if they were people not things, in face as people. Interviewing the kaumatua I noticed how often and naturally they spoke of the sea as Tangaroa and of particular rocks and beaches by name as old and personal friends with whose quirks of character they were entirely familiar. They felt an affinity with beach, rocks and mataitai as part of God’s creation equally with themselves. In past generations this affinity came out in beliefs in kaitiaki who protected both mataitai and people.”^[1]

^[1] Evidence from Joan Metge, in respect of Te Wharo Oneroa a Tōhe

TO TĀTOU WHAINGA – VISION

The mauri of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe is strong. The whole ecosystem along the entire length of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe has mana and is in balance.



TO TĀTOU KAUPAPA - MISSION

Kia piki ake te Mauri o te Toheroa me kia whai mana Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe kia ora ake ano te Toheroa.

To restore the mauri of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe, and to start this journey with Toheroa.

The return to our own original Māori name as the result of the Settlement Act (Te Hiku) sets a strong foundation for the reawakening of kaitiaki roles and responsibilities including the kaitiakitanga of the Toheroa. The name itself indicates the nature of the shellfish as a taonga species of all iwi of Hiku o Te Ika. The mana of the species is reflective of a need to nurture its mauri in the context of the mauri of the entire beach as it is expressed by the practice and tikanga of Tangata Whenua, and in addition as Wai 262 claimants.

KŌRERO WHAKAMĀRAMA - BACKGROUND

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe has historically been a vital resource of food, transport, cultural, spiritual sustenance, and recreation for Te Hiku o Te Ika Iwi. Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe also includes Te Ara Wairua, which is of utmost cultural and spiritual importance to Te Hiku Iwi.

Toheroa were previously incredibly abundant along Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe, and according to a previous Iwi ownership claimant, Waata Tepania, 90% of the local diet comprised of shellfish and fish sourced from the beach and moana.

Due to increased harvesting pressures on Toheroa by the wider community, numbers were significantly reduced and by the late 1960s, the fishery collapsed. Commercial canning was banned in 1969. Regional closures were staggered, and the last legal recreational catch occurred in 1979. Te Rarawa declared a further moratorium on the taking of Toheroa in 1990. In November 2009, a rāhui was put in place at Otia to enable the Toheroa to recover.

After five decades of retiring the harvest of Toheroa, their numbers have not significantly increased. Large beds of Toheroa have long been absent from the beach. Possible reasons include changes in the prevailing winds and phytoplankton beaching patterns; disconnection of nutrient transfer between the whenua and moana as freshwater gets diverted from its flow to the moana. Features of climate change like increasing temperatures and longer drier summers add further stress to the toheroa. Besides the weather and climate induced changes there are human activities, including the increased use of vehicles on the beach, development of plantation forestry, other land-use changes, past harvest behaviours and continued illegal, unreported harvesting all contribute to the difficulty faced by Toheroa. Non-human predation is also postulated as a significant factor.

The people of Te Hiku need a pathway for the continued protection of Toheroa and to enable the shellfish to thrive.

RESTORING THE MAURI OF TOHEROA

The Iwi aspiration is to ensure continued access to enhanced stocks of Toheroa by reversing environmental degradation and by restoring historical beds that are now depleted.

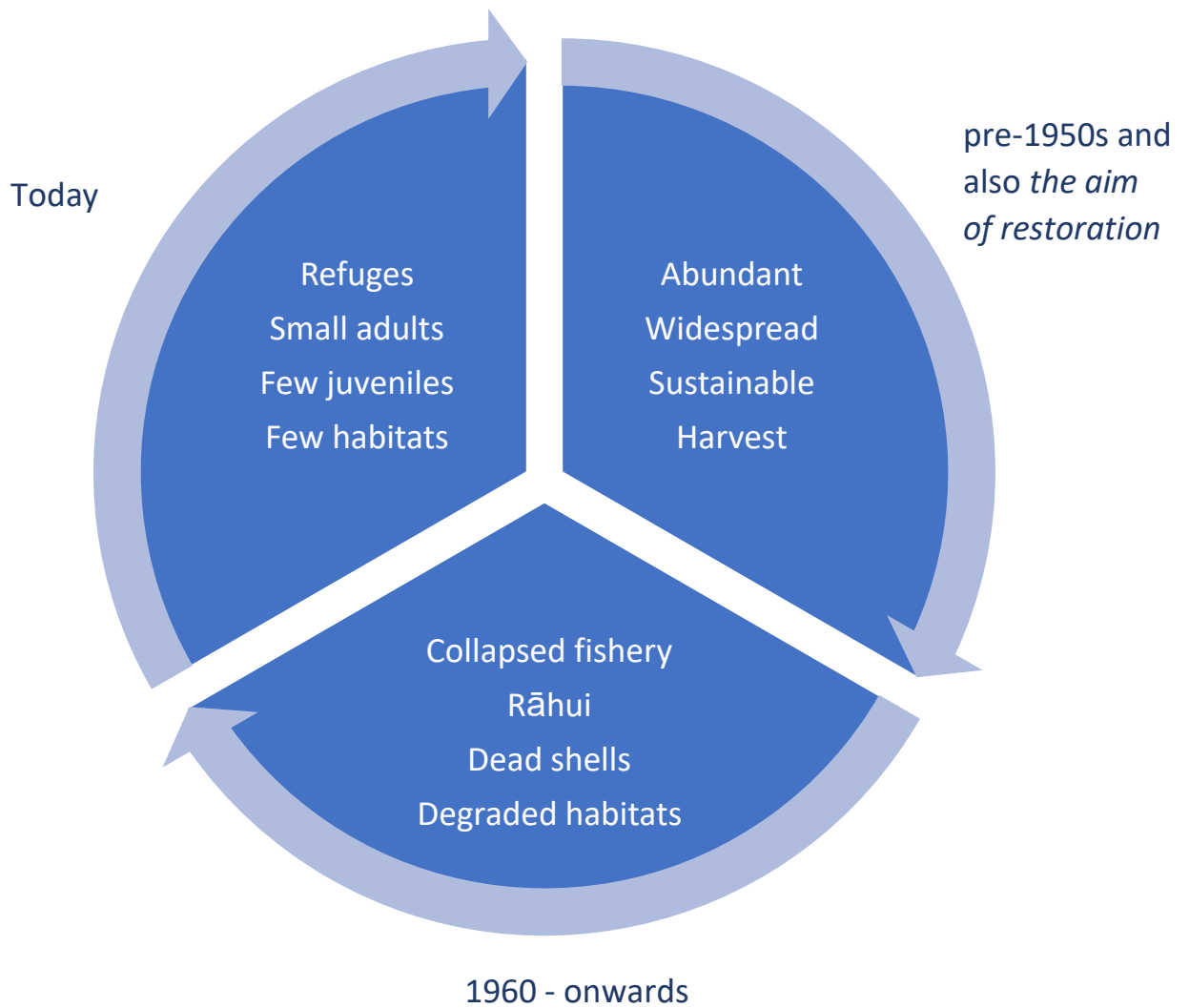
As communities of interest, we will start by shifting our thinking toward working together. To achieve the mission and vision, we must recognise and address the causes of harmful impacts on Toheroa and its environment. These causal factors are historic events, present issues, and future

risks such as climate change. Most of the challenges are large scale and may seem daunting. We intend to break these challenges down into smaller positive actions that will provide for the future for Toheroa. There are four key strategic outcome areas or Pou, that ought to be considered and these were identified at a hui in April 2022. The plan starts with these four Pou and highlight specific actions for each, but other actions will be added as we learn.

Our Pou
<p>1. Broad Engagement Seek collaborative relationships with hapū/iwi, community, and environmental interest groups. Full engagement is our approach.</p>
<p>2. Pooling and Improving Knowledge 3. At the heart of our understanding is mātauranga Māori and the practises that flow from it. Western scientific methods combine with Ao Māori perspectives.</p>
<p>4. Reverse Degradation Engaging in identifying and prioritising activities that can reduce harm for long-term gains.</p>
<p>5. Measurable Goals Set the direction of our restoration efforts and identify milestones and objectives that will bring back Toheroa.</p>

There is a long-term commitment to achieving this vision of Toheroa abundance that is consistent with the permanence of hapū and iwi. We will need good people, strong direction, robust and transparent decision-making, with bold interventions to achieve our mission. The four strategic pou provide the framework for transformation that will return the mauri to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe and restore an abundant sustainable population of Toheroa.

TOHEROA JOURNEY TE HAERENGA O TE TOHEROA



Pou 1 – Broad Engagement

The aim of Broad Engagement is to improve relationships, partnerships, and governance to support strategic decisions about Toheroa. To realise this, we need to reach the following goals:

1. Inclusive and participatory engagement.
2. Social fairness and equity through the whole process.
3. Active participants contributing right through from planning to monitoring.
4. Hapū are empowered and so are their Iwi.
5. Equitable distribution of benefits and responsibilities.
6. Develop a way to enable a mindset change in people's behaviours.
7. Build trust and mutual respect by being inclusive.

Actions to start Broad Engagement

1. Transparent governance and co-management.
2. Provide mechanisms for impartial conflict resolution.
3. Regularly meet and share information and progress at hui.
4. Iwi/hapū are all in agreement that the survival of this taonga species is dependent on commitment. And hapū/iwi are prepared to make sacrifices to achieve a thriving Toheroa bed/s on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
5. Iwi agree on the action to take for returning the mauri to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
6. Set up an Action Group to co-ordinate and communicate the work to do.
7. Local communities are involved, and people share stories about the restoration of Toheroa and not harvesting of Toheroa.
8. Partnerships are developed with public and private sectors.
9. Central and Local Governments are invited to be active stakeholders.
10. Long-term relationships are established with research institutes.
11. Educate community about Toheroa.
12. Iwi agree on development of any aquaculture of Toheroa.
13. Participate in the transition (and co-governance) of the new water entity.
14. Integrate improved water management and allocation of water into local policies and plans to deliver outcomes for Te Mana o Te Wai.

Outcome of Broad Engagement

- Active and effective management of Tōhe for Toheroa.

Pou 2 – Pooling and improving Knowledge

The aim of Pooling and Improving Knowledge is for us to grow the knowledge to make good quality and strategic decisions about Toheroa. To realise this, we need to reach the following goals:

1. Mātauranga Māori leads the way and provides the foundation notion of kaitiakitanga.
2. Integrate Western scientific knowledge within Te Ao Māori.
3. Promote mutual learning opportunities and knowledge-sharing. Kōtahi tātou ka ora ai tātou katoa! (Together as one, we will all succeed the benefit together).
4. Identify knowledge gaps, strategic research, and capacity-development priorities.
5. Educate and develop our capability through educational initiatives.
6. Understand the regulatory environment and reforms underway.
7. Use innovation and experimentation to provide solutions to issues we face.



Patau Tepania and Luke measuring Toheroa (Source: Emma Newcombe, 2021)

We need to reconnect Hapū/Iwi to historical mātauranga Māori tuku iho (Māori knowledge handed down) aligning Tikanga, Kaitiakitanga, and Manaakitanga. Our success is promoting ourselves as tangata; ahakoa ko wai, ahakoa no hea! (As people; no matter who you are, no matter where you are from!)

Actions to start Pooling and Improving Knowledge

1. Share existing data and information in an open way and use online platforms or networks.
2. Review existing reports, information and collect mātauranga Māori in one place.
3. Increase knowledge and information by applying for funding to meet strategic goals.
4. Re-design stock assessments of Toheroa to better estimate populations across Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
5. Assess changing weather patterns on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe (particularly temperatures, droughts, wind direction and strength).
6. Better understand the sources and movement of phytoplankton important to Toheroa.
7. Identify any sub-tidal populations of Toheroa or parents supplying spat to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
8. Assess heavy vehicle traffic impacts on Toheroa population across Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
9. Better understand freshwater seepage (wetness of beach) and the beach topography in influencing where Toheroa want to live and breed.

Outcome of Pooling and Improving Knowledge

- A shared understanding enabling better decisions for the future of Toheroa.

Pou 3 – Reverse Degradation

The aim of Reverse Degradation is to have a thriving and sustainable Toheroa population that supports life and food gathering by reducing threats, risks, and negative impacts on Toheroa. To realise this, we need to address the degradation:

1. Toheroa populations are harmed by overharvesting and damage from vehicles.
2. They have the freshwater supplying nutrients that they need to thrive.
3. We encourage Toheroa spat and adults to return to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
4. We understand that climate change might stress Toheroa. We need the knowledge/skills to be able to mitigate this.
5. We know what the information gaps are, and we are working to fill them.



Effects of vehicles on beaches

Actions to start to Reverse Degradation

1. Rāhui for Toheroa is publicly notified to remind everyone there is no take.
2. Identify and prioritise how to enhance Toheroa stock numbers.
3. Develop and influence policies that support the restoration of the habitats of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe and Toheroa – to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation.

4. Employ more locals as Fisheries Officers to protect Toheroa from poachers.
5. Manage stocks so the biggest are kept for breeding like the old days.
6. Respect and protect the youngest and smallest Toheroa for they will grow strong.
7. Manage vehicle traffic on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe, especially where small toheroa live.
8. Learn more about natural predation on Toheroa and its habitat (e.g. wild horses in dunes affecting pingao and gull predation of large Toheroa).
9. Identify land-uses that support Toheroa survival.
10. Identify new economic opportunities to replace pine forests in dune areas (e.g., manukau and kanuka bush honey).
11. Develop a business plan to replace pines with indigenous plants so economic opportunities are in harmony with Toheroa living in traditional areas.
12. Improve natural water quality and quantity in dune systems, wetlands, and streams adjacent to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe to meet Te Mana o Te Wai regulations.
13. Balance the water cycle to support all ecosystems not just above high tide.
14. Agree research priorities and seek funding.
15. Identify restoration activities.
 - i) Identify best Toheroa research areas for restoration.
 - ii) Plan how to rejuvenate freshwater sources (lakes and streams flowing through the dune network).
 - iii) Set up a programme to plant pingao to restore dune systems.
 - iv) Develop a long-term plan to reconnect the wai to the moana.

Outcome of Reverse Degradation

- Restore Toheroa to be abundant, resilient, and self-sustaining.

Pou 4 – Measurable Goals

The aim of Measurable Goals to give Toheroa the best chance to live well and fully. To realise this, we need to reach the following goals.

Identify what returning the balance and mauri to Toheroa looks like by agreeing that:

1. This comes from your engagement and agreed aspirations.
2. Once Toheroa is restored, set targets for Toheroa to continue to thrive.
3. Build towards a sustainable commercial harvest of wild Toheroa across Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.
4. Increase Toheroa biomass so they are resilient to fight a changing climate.
5. Seek iwi and community buy-in to achieve these goals.
6. Maintain adequate funding to complete all phases of the restoration and stock management goals.

Actions to start Measurable Goals

1. Develop a hierarchy of needs for Toheroa.
2. Identify short, medium, and long-term objectives and goals to meet the hierarchy.
3. Set targets to reach and measure them against baseline conditions.
4. Identify a catchment to restore water supply and water quality back to how it was and see how quickly Toheroa return.
5. Monitor, evaluate, reflect, and manage or adapt our approach along the way.
6. Increase monitoring of toheroa along the beach with kaitiaki.

Outcome of Measurable Goals

- Our taonga is recognised and widely respected.

** Contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to end poverty, conserve biodiversity, combat climate change and improve livelihoods for everyone, everywhere.*

Kupu Whakatepe/conclusion

We see this plan as a guide towards a longer-term commitment in an uncertain world. We have many challenges ahead. The greatest challenge has been laid down by previous generations and that is for us to restore the mauri of Te Oneroa a Tōhe. This is now our opportunity; to work together, to be bold, to meet that challenge and face the uncertainties that lie ahead. With our hands and our hearts, we can return the mauri of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe and contribute to the return of mauri Toheroa. By doing that we change the current narrative and have kaitiakitanga as the collective custom.

A PROPOSAL FOR MOVING-FORWARD

We are proposing that iwi as manawhenua- establish a foundation for this effort by agreeing to form an initial platform based on our kaitiaki roles and responsibilities. At this stage we are expecting that Te Rarawa, Ngaitakoto, Te Aupouri and Ngati Kuri will be those tāpapa iwi with the option for other iwi associated with toheroa to also weave into the iwi fabric.

Building on that foundation other organisations and agencies will be able to join the initiative contributing their profile and an inventory of their involvement in Toheroa sustainability. This may also describe existing partnerships and joint venture that contribute to and identified strategic direction. There will opportunities for both international and NZ based tertiary research institutions.

TIAKINA TE TOHEROA HEI TAONGA TŪTURU KAUPAPA

Ma te whakapapa o Te Toherao ka tātai tonu ki te tangata whenua hei kaitiaki mōna. Mā te tangata whenua ka tātai atu ki Te Tiriti o Waitangi he kawenata me te iwi Pākehā mo Niu Tirenī. Mā te Te Tiriti o Waitangi ngā iwi o te motu e hono kia Kotahi ai te mahi a tēna, a tēna ki te tiaki te Taonga nei ko te Toheroa.

na mātou

Te Aupōuri

Ngāti Kuri

Ngāi Takoto

Te Rarawa

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He korero tēnei putaia mai e etahi kaumatua, e ngā kaitiaki nō Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Te Rūnanga nui o Te Aupōuri me Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Takoto me Ngāti Kuri. E mihi ana ki rātou moemoea o ngā Toheroa i Te Oneroa a Tōhe.

He mihi nui ki ngā tāngata i tae tinana mai ki te hui, kei te Marae o Roma. I puta rawa atu te mahere rautaki Toheroa mai i tēnei hui. E mihi kau ana nōki ki a George Riley, Patau Tepania, Tui Qauqau Te Paa, Rongo Beatson, Haami Piripi, Dr Jacquie Reed ratou ko Ellen Graham mo ta rātou mahi whakaritenga tēnei hui.

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We thank the Ministry for Primary Industry for funding the hui in Ahipara and for funding a Toheroa re-seeding programme to re-establish Toheroa at a historic site on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe.

TOHEROA STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Our Vision	The mauri of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe is strong. The whole ecosystem along the entire length of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe has mana and is in balance.
Our Mission	To restore the mauri of Te-Oneroa-a-Tohe, and to start this journey with Toheroa.
Our Context	Proactive approach to restoring Toheroa led by mana whenua.
Our Over-arching Challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Govern and manage Toheroa together 2. Reduce threats to Toheroa 3. Improve habitats from whenua to moana 4. Enhance Toheroa numbers
Our Cross-cutting Themes	<p><i>Conservation:</i> restore ecosystems supporting Toheroa</p> <p><i>Climate Change:</i> Mitigate and adapt to impacts on Toheroa or its habitats</p> <p><i>Aquaculture:</i> share knowledge and partner together to enhance Toheroa’s wellbeing.</p>
Our Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broad Engagement Active and effective management of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe for Toheroa.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pooling & Improving Knowledge A shared understanding enabling better decisions for the future of Toheroa.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reverse Degradation Restore Toheroa to be abundant, resilient, and self-sustaining.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Measurable Goals Sets the direction of our restoration efforts to bring back Toheroa.
Our Implementation	Collaboration to build capacity and capability for Iwi and communities
Next Steps	<p>Adopt the Toheroa Strategic Plan’s goals and outcomes.</p> <p>Meet key stakeholders and partners.</p> <p>Plan initiatives for funding and research.</p> <p>Define Year 1 actions and take first set of actions.</p>

Te Oneroa a Tōhe Beach Board



Chairperson

Board Members:

Te Hiku Conservation Board

Chairperson

Board Members: