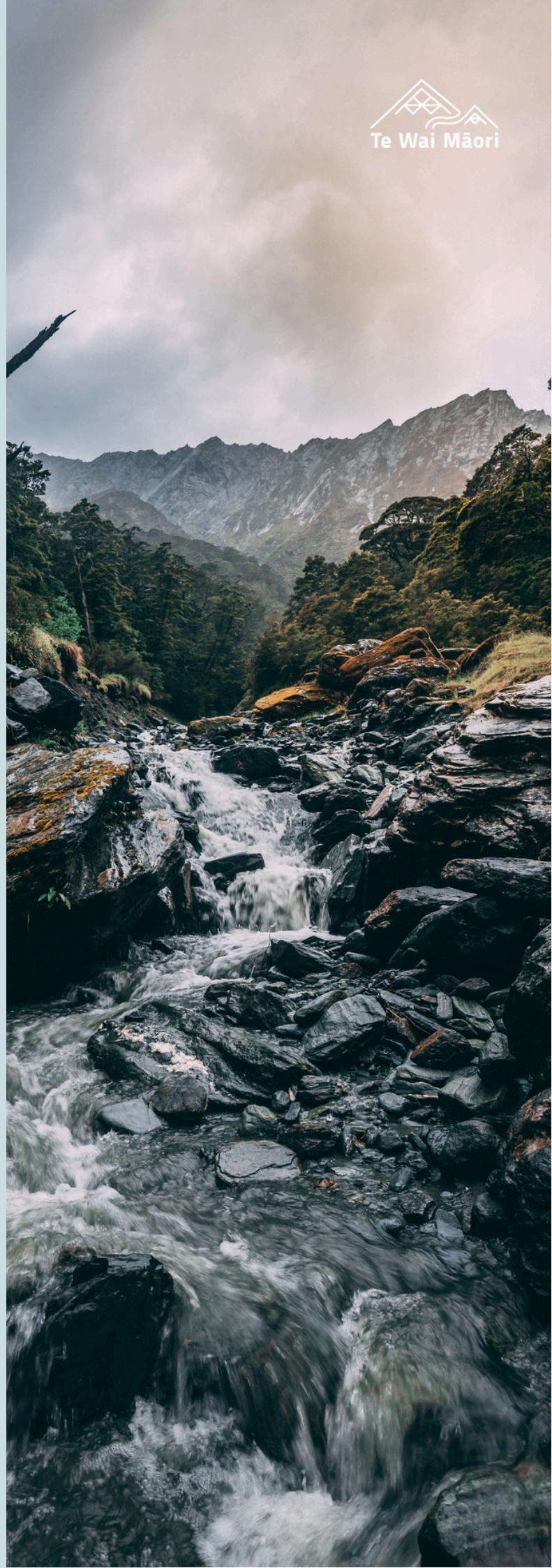


2023/24 Te Wai Māori Trust Q1 Report

HE REO TŌ TE WAI
HE REO TŌ TE TANGATA
KOTAHİ TONU TE WHAKAPAPA
WHAKAKOTAHITIA!



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Karakia

Ko Rangi,
ko Papa,
ka puta ko Rongo,
ko Tane Mahuta,
ko Tangaroa,
ko Tumatauenga
ko Haumietiketike,
ko Tawhirimatea.

Tokona te Rangi ki runga,
Ko Papa ki raro.
Ka puta te ira tangata ki te whai ao, ki te ao
marama.

E Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga,
Kia Tina! Tina!
Hui e, Taiki e!

This is Te Wai Māori's quarter one (Q1) report to iwi against the 2023/24 Annual Plan and covers the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We are pleased to present to you our first quarter report of the 2023/24 financial year.

It was an amazing start to our new working year. We visited two projects that we are proud to support and be part of - inspiring kōrero with the Cawthron Fish Futures working group in Murihiku about how we can improve institutional and policy reform of fish management, and attending a kanakana workshop with one of our Wai Ora recipient projects Hokonui Runanga.

In amongst this was the Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference. Two days full of kōrero and whānaungatanga across our incredible network of kaitiaki wai Māori.

We have provided further detail of our work and progress towards our Annual Plan in this report. Our work programme supports the strategic priorities and long-term outcomes detailed in the Trust's Annual Plan. These include:

- Enhancing the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat
- Enhancing the recognition and status of indigenous species
- Providing better opportunities for the participation of iwi and hapū in resource management decision making processes as they relate to freshwater fisheries and habitat
- Promoting and sharing indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding
- Increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and habitat
- Supporting iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

As always, we welcome your feedback on the structure and content of our reporting.

Nāku noa, nā,



Rawiri Faulkner,
Chair Te Wai Māori Trust



Wai Māori around the motu



Cawthron Fish Futures

Enhance the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat

The Fish Futures Working Group is co-led by Te Wai Māori and the Cawthron Institute to drive improved institutional and policy reform of fish management. The roopu includes rohe partners Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku, along with representatives from the Department of Conservation and Fish and Game. The five-year project includes identifying alternative fish governance models and recommendations and including these in published reports.

Hīkoi ki Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku

The Fish Futures Working Group met in Invercargill on 5 December 2023 for a two-day hui hosted by Te Ao Marama Incorporated (TAMI) and members from Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku. Te Ao Marama was established by the four Murihiku Papatipu Rūnanga in 1996 and it represents tangata whenua for resource management and local government purposes.

The kaupapa of the hui was to gain insight from Murihiku on the fundamental issues in fish governance and to contemplate the role of the roopu in a rapidly changing political environment.



Fish Futures Working Group members digging for toheroa at Oreti Beach, Southland/Murihiku



The team busy preparing the toheroa for lunch

Toheroa gathering

Day one of our visit included a site visit to Oreti Beach to gather toheroa, which were made into fritters and shared with manuhiri on Day two!

Toheroa are a taonga of Murihiku kaitiaki and Oreti Beach has the most significant population of toheroa in the South Island. Toheroa were once plentiful and one of the few mahinga kai species that could be harvested all year round.

Up until 40 years ago toheroa were intensively harvested, commercially and recreationally, but that form of fishing has been prohibited throughout the country in response to a steep decline in population numbers.

The only permitted gathering of toheroa now is as tangata tiaki under the customary fisheries regulations.

Issues and aspirations for fish management

Day two of the hui included a wānanga at Te Ao Marama Incorporated where whānau identified key issues for the Waiau catchment. They included climate change, poor fish passage, limited legislative protection for native species, limited cultural use/customary rights, and a lack of access and connection with sites and species.

Access to fishing sites is essential for mahinga kai. Lack of access to safe fishing sites and species is now a significant barrier for mana whenua with over 50% of the Murihiku rohe in conservation estate. While waterbodies within National Parks and on conservation land in the upper catchment generally have good water quality, mana whenua do not have access to these sites. Iwi and hapū now need research permits before they can monitor or harvest species within National Park sites, and this has collectively weakened mana whenua connection to place, preventing the intergenerational exchange of knowledge and the ability to exercise kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga.

Much like the kōrero shared by Te Arawa at our previous working group hui, Murihiku shared kōrero around the struggle with the current management regime that values recreational fishers and empowers entities such as Fish and Game to protect introduced sports.

Murihiku whānau talked about the opportunities to use levers like mātaimai reserves to help protect freshwater taonga. Mātaimai reserves are a nuanced management tool that can be used to restrict commercial harvest while allowing customary and recreational takes. The use of mātaimai came about as a result of the Ngāi Tahu customary regulations and has been utilised effectively by both the Murihiku and Arowhenua Rūnanga. For example, in 2006 Murihiku iwi put a mātaimai reserve on Curio Bay estuary and right up to the second falls in the Waikawa. This has helped sustain mahinga species within the mātaimai area and has also garnered support from the wider community.

Te Ao Marama Incorporated have identified a number of aspirations for the catchment, which they are actively working towards. There is a strong focus here on addressing inequities for iwi and hapū in fish governance and exploring opportunities for alternative models that align with Te Tiriti and this roopu's kaupapa. Whānau essentially want the following:

- Areas/catchments that are free from introduced species.
- Being able to exercise mana Motuhake by writing their own customary harvest permits.
- Being able to safely manaaki manuhiri and gather mahinga kai where they want.
- Being able to reconnect with and reclaim spaces and places.
- Being able to do their own monitoring at place, in creeks, awa and catchments with clear and prompt communications, and being able to provide timely and meaningful responses when issues are detected, and
- Being able to deal appropriately with the loss of taonga species like kōura.

Next steps

The Fish Futures Working Group has held four hui since December 2022, including three hosted by its rohe partners. The roopu will meet again in Wellington on 9 April 2024 to begin narrowing down and re-focussing on the key themes raised at prior hui that can best effect positive change for the future of our native fish.



Kanakana a precious taonga for Hokonui Rūnanga

In November 2023, the Trust attended a kanakana workshop led by Cawthron and hosted by Hokonui Rūnanga in Gore.

The workshop was convened to discuss kanakana/piharau (lamprey) reddening syndrome (LRS), and to look at improving surveillance, reporting and responses. The workshop formed part of Cawthron's Emerging Aquatic Diseases collaborative research programme, funded by MBIE. It included representatives from Hokonui, the Trust, Cawthron, MPI, Fish and Game, DOC and scientists and researchers from various academic institutions.

Attending the workshop provided a great opportunity to meet with Hokonui whānau ā-tinana and see the extensive mahi they are undertaking in their rohe. The day included field visits to key areas of significance to Hokonui Rūnanga, including Te Au-Nui-Pihapiha Kanakana (Mataura Falls) which has been desecrated by developments on both sides of the waterway with an operational meat works one side and an abandoned paper mill abutting the other. While the paper mill is no longer operating, the site owners continue to use the existing turbines to generate electricity. Both structures impede whānau access to the site.

The workshop also highlighted some of the challenges that can arise when collaborating with non-Māori scientists on issues affecting our freshwater taonga due to differences in approach and values.

The cultural significance of kanakana

A key component of the wānanga was understanding the cultural significance of kanakana to Hokonui whānau and hopefully ensuring that the research programme remains consistent with tikanga when investigating and diagnosing LRS.

The Wai 262 'best practice guidelines for science partnerships with kaitiaki for research involving taonga' is especially important, particularly regarding the sampling size of live kanakana to kill. Sampling should be done in a culturally sensitive way that is as much as possible non-destructive/non-lethal.

Riki Parata told us that kanakana are a taonga and their numbers traditionally were so great at the Mataura River, that South Island Māori would travel from as far away as Ōtautahi during harvest time. The native kanakana were around long before the dinosaurs, with fossil records dating back 360 million years ([Taonga Species Series: Piharau | NIWA](#)) and they are anadromous, which means they start their lives in freshwater streams, before migrating to sea after three to four years. They only return to freshwater to breed.

We heard from Riki that kanakana numbers at Mataura Falls are declining. This is of serious concern to Hokonui Rūnanga who don't want to sit idle while another taonga goes into decline and is threatened with extinction. Kanakana/piharau are declining nationally and are no longer present in other iwi takiwā, so the detection of LRS is alarming. Lamprey reddening syndrome – of which the cause is still unknown – was first detected in Southland rivers in 2011.

Site visit to Mataura Falls

The workshop included a field visit/hīkoi to the Mataura Falls and Tutarau. The Mataura Falls on the Mataura River is renowned for its abundance of kanakana/piharau. This important mahinga kai has survived against the odds. In the late 19th century it was drastically altered when the Mataura Paper Mill and the Mataura Freezing Works were established on opposite sides of the river. Fifteen metres were blown off the top of the falls, and water was diverted for power generation. Fortunately, the rocky walls of the small gorge below the falls remains available for fish passage, and amazingly the kanakana have adapted and continue to return to this original habitat.

We heard from Jane Kitson that, while the Mataura Falls is now a bleak industrial area, it still retains significant spiritual, cultural and ecological value for Māori. Te Au Nui is part of a 10-kilometre stretch of the Mataura River that was declared a freshwater mātaihai reserve back in 2006, which means its management is back in the hands of kaitiaki.



Mataura Falls and Mataura Freezing Works

Hokonui Rūnanga monitor kanakana annually and they have recently installed two cameras immediately below the falls to record the presence of kanakana. One is located where the Mataura Freezing Works are situated. Here kanakana have one route that they can use to migrate up the falls. On the adjacent side is the old Mataura Paper Mill, where kanakana congregate at an impassable concrete structure. This is where the other camera is situated so that Hokonui kaimahi can monitor when kanakana arrive and can trap and then transfer the fish safely upstream.



There were a number of rangatahi kaimahi onsite during our hīkoi who guided us around the falls, and we got to hold live kanakana which had been captured for the purposes of a possible breeding programme to re-seed rehabilitated streams in the Mataura Catchment.

Adult kanakana being temporarily held in a tank adjacent to the Mataura Falls

Wai Ora Funding

Hokonui Rūnanga received Wai Ora funding in 2023 to setup AI software, called Roboflow, which applies image-recognition AI to images taken from cameras installed at the Mataura Falls. The software will help detect when kanakana migration starts and ends and has a level of detail that shows individual features from each kanakana, including the presence/absence of LRS. This will add real value to the wider research programme by creating a robust baseline data source that should improve LRS surveillance, reporting and responses.

Next steps

The wānanga identified a list of considerations and actions that will be collectively developed and revisited over the five-year term of the project.

Future project action points included developing appropriate tikanga for investigating and diagnosing LRS, formalising Te Tiriti principles, decolonising LRS reporting/surveillance systems and questions, identifying a baseline for healthy kanakana, drafting an LRS action plan and reaching out to national and international networks of indigenous kanakana harvesters.



Performance against Annual Plan



Enhance the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat

Fish Futures Working Group hui

For more detail on our mahi in this workstream, see the story 'Cawthron Fish Futures' under Wai Māori around the Motu above.



Enhance the recognition and status of indigenous species

Te Mana o Ngā Tuna

This quarter the roopu met online on 23 August and identified a number of options to help advocate for and protect longfin tuna. This included creating a set of best practice resource consent conditions for Hydroelectric Power Schemes (HEPS) to support safe tuna migration at HEPS and at floodpumps, with the roopu recommending Vaipuhi Consultants to undertake this mahi. Vaipuhi Consultants have now been engaged to create a set of best practice fish passage resource consent conditions that can be adapted for each of the 12 hydroelectric power schemes due for renewal by 2025. The report will outline options for mitigation and provide wording for consent conditions. It is intended that these best practice consent conditions to support safe tuna passage can be picked up and used by affected iwi/hapū to inform re consenting processes within their respective rohe.



Provide better opportunities for the participation of Iwi and hapū in resource management decision-making processes as they relate to freshwater fisheries and habitat

Resource Management Reform

Te Wai Māori continued to support the Freshwater Iwi Advisors Group in their engagement with the Crown on resource management and freshwater reform through the quarter.



Promote and share indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.

Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference

The Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference is a key event organised by the Trust, providing a forum for the coming together of iwi and hapū to share freshwater fisheries knowledge and expertise.

The conference was successfully held in Wakatū on 16 and 17 November. The event was well attended by iwi, hapū, kaitiaki and whānau. The event was fully allocated with 250 registrations.

The hui brought together 38 kaikōrero across 19 presentations. Topics presented included catchment restoration, kōrero from roopu supported through the Wai Ora fund and freshwater and indigenous species research. Positive feedback has been received from a range of attendees and from kaikōrero that presented.

The tono to host the next conference was taken up by Maniapoto, with the mauri stone transferred to them at the close of the conference.





Support Iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

Wai Ora Fund

This quarter, the Trust entered into five new contracts from the 2023 funding round with: Tuawhenua Trust; Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated; Maungataniwha ki Rangaunu Trust; Te Wai Mauri Charitable Trust; and Waikawa Lands Trust. A sixth contract is in development with Hokonui Rūnanga Floriculture Limited.

The Trust concluded funding agreements with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kea Ngāti Tuara, Te Maru o Kaituna and Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust. The Trust continued to support the remaining projects funded in 2022: Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust; Te Kaahui o Rauru; and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority.

The last remaining funding recipient from the 2021 funding round - Te Ani Waata Whānau Trust - is set to conclude this next quarter.

Tiaki Wai Fund

This quarter, the Trust concluded the funding agreement with Titirangi Waka Ama and Wellbeing Charitable Trust. Deliverables for the agreement with Ngāti Pāhauwera are scheduled to commence in April 2024. The Trust continues to seek to support funding recipients to complete their project milestones for FY 21/22: Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga and Te Aitanga o Ngā Uri o Wharekauri.

Financial performance against plan

The following table summarises each area of work identified in the 2023/24 annual plan by presenting the forecasted year-end position and comparing actual to forecasted expenses for the year to date.

Te Wai Māori Finance Report to 30 September 2024

	YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL	FORECAST	VARIANCE	FORECAST	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Projects						
Responding to legislative reform and policy	638	624	(14)	2,500	2,500	-
Indigenous freshwater species	1,973	5,001	3,028	52,891	52,891	-
Targeted research	2,200	2,201	1	41,202	49,999	(8,797)
Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference	94,230	94,229	(1)	167,720	160,000	7,720
Supporting iwi and hapū through freshwater funding	73,911	67,998	(5,913)	323,951	323,951	-
MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund	323,533	147,500	(176,033)	672,000	672,000	-
Outreach and Relationship Building	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-
Operations						
Governance	31,158	31,872	714	141,524	141,524	-
Operations	111,127	143,342	32,215	564,521	564,521	-
TOTAL	638,770	492,767	(146,003)	1,986,309	1,987,386	(1,077)

NB: the figures shown in the tables above have not been audited.

Comments on financial performance

- ▶ Te Wai Māori have incurred \$639k of costs to 31 December, which is 32% of the budgeted full year spend.
- ▶ A partial reforecast was performed across the fisheries conference and research, which show minor variances after Q1. The \$146k YTD overspend is on MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) funds which relate to timing only.
- ▶ Operational savings of \$32k have been generated, largely due to HR.
- ▶ Freshwater funding to iwi through the Wai Ora and Tiaki Wai funds has tracked close to budget over the first quarter, which is an encouraging start to the year.
- ▶ Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference costs are also close to budget, with a slight \$7.7k overspend forecasted.
- ▶ Governance costs are tracking to budget.



Photo credit: Department of Conservation