

Kia Hiwa Rā!

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BOPRC Biodiversity Strategy Symposium
5 March 2026

“Te moana i kataina ai e Te Rangitakaroro”



- Okataina
- Tupuaoterangi
- Ngati Tarawhai

BOPRC Biodiversity Strategy Symposium

Ngāti Tarāwhai

- Ngatoroirangi, Tohunga Ihorei o Te Arawa
- Mana whenua – Okataina
- Tohunga whakairo – waka, whare
- Bonn, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Clendon Estate –England
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Papa, Auckland War Museum
- Te Puia – Maori Arts & Crafts Institute



Okataina



- Okataina
- Rotoiti
- Tarawera
- Okareka

- Whakapapa
- Ara - pathways
- Mahinga kai
- Native fisheries and birdlife
- Ngahere
- Kāinga - Whakaruruhau
- Urupā

Te Ara ki Uta, te Ara ki Tai

The pathway inland and to the sea

Maketu – Pukehina – Pongakawa- Rotomā – Rotoehu – Rotoiti – Okataina – Tarawera / Okareka – Rotokakahi - Waikato - Taupo



Ecological integrity

Cultural continuity

Flow-on effect:

Ngahere

Lakes

Rivers

Coastal environment.



Return to Okataina 2022



Priorities

- Takahia te whenua - reconnecting
- Relearn old skills and knowledge
- Gain new skills, around research & science
- Kaitiakitanga

Toitū te marae a Tāne

Toitū te marae a Tangaroa

Toitū te tangata

- Connection between, whenua, lakes and sea
- Mauri — if biodiversity declines, mauri declines
- Kaitiakitanga - an inherited cultural obligation.
 - Mokopuna ↔ uri intergenerational



Land-Based Pest Impacts

Wallabies, Deer, Pigs ...

- Understorey destruction
- Forest regeneration failure
- Increased erosion into tributaries
- Okataina / Okareka 'Ground Zero'





Possums, Stoats, Cats, Rats

Canopy damage

Native bird predation

Structural catchment decline

Sediment / Nutrient Run-off

Landslips



Increased Landslips Okataina



Te Arawa Wallaby Pest Kahui

Initially established by Ngāti Tararawai

2023 – Kahui established – 7 Te Arawa iwi
13 students – training funded by iwi & MPI
2024 – secured 3 year contract from Tipu Matoro
2025 - 2 years IVL funding
2026 – 9 staff
Night Shooting Crew
Day Crew Trapping, Monitoring, Track cutting
Wananga / Community Workshops
Taster 2 -day programmes
Ongoing Biosecurity PD – land & water





Challenges 1

Containment Strategy – 'outside in'



Challenges

Funding

Tipu Matoro -limited to work around buffer zone only

No funding for 'ground zero'

Central Government apathy (?!)

Compliance

H & S

Regional Authorities

DoC

Engagement, Collaboration, Coordination (Silo)

iwi, land trusts

farmers

community organisations

DoC

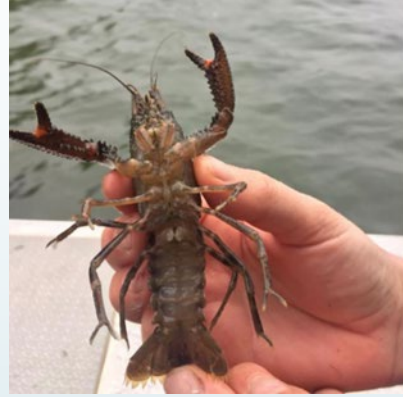
Forest & Bird

Fish & Game

Timing

Lack of flexibility

Tiakina Ngā Wai o Parawhenuamea



Tiakina Ngā Wai o Parawhenuamea

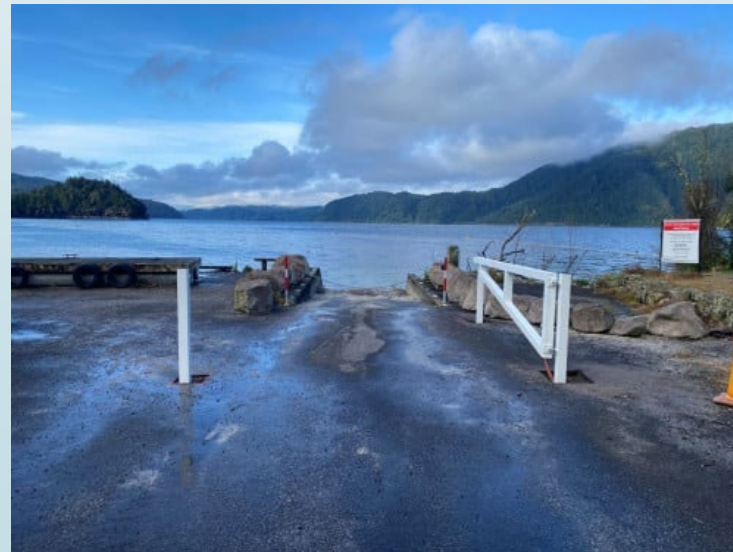
Biosecurity threats to water bodies are a real risk

Human activity across lakes, risk of that spread is high.

Prevention is more achievable than eradication.



Prevention better than cure



Freshwater gold clam **UPDATE**

Lake Rotomanu
to be drained



Gold clam eradication too costly for Lake Rotomanu

Helen Harvey

February 25, 2026
Taranaki Daily News



Biosecurity

Golden Clams

- Rapid reproduction
- Lakebed colonisation
- Permanent nutrient-cycle alteration

Catfish

- Predation on native fish and koura
- Disruption of food webs
- Immediate impact on mahinga kai

Pest Weed

- AI Drones
- JV with EIS (NIWA)

Water Quality

- Tau Koura
- Sewerage System



Wananga
Education
Monitoring
Testing
Surveillance



Challenges

Regulatory Framework

Slow & inflexible (vs fast & mobile vectors)

Boaties

Fish & Game Enthusiasts

Locals

Attitude



Te Marae o Tangaroa

Regional and Coastal Impacts

Ngahere to roto

roto to awa

and awa to moana.

More Slips

Pest damage causing increased sediment loads

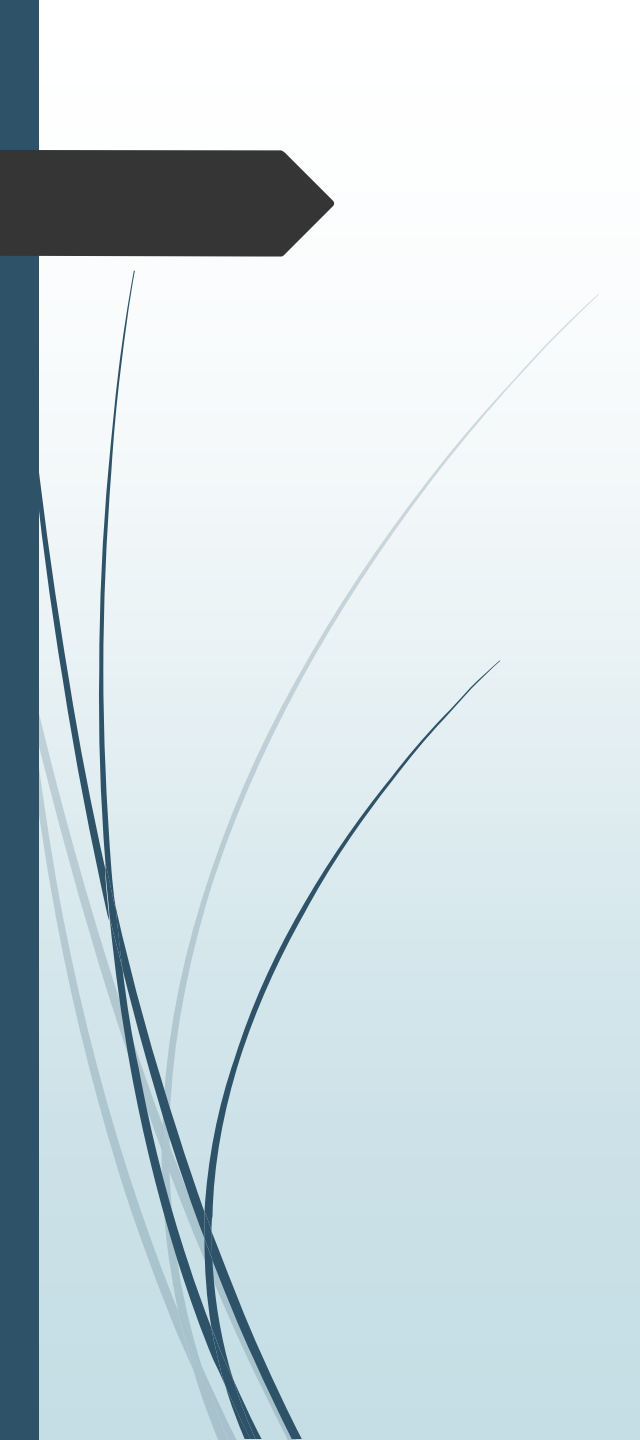
Heavier rain / climate events

Nutrient cycles altered by invasive species.

Degradation of inland lakes is a regional coastal issue.

Estuaries become stressed. Shellfish beds smothered. Coastal fisheries decline.





We seek

1. Strong iwi-partnered biosecurity surveillance, processes, policies and regulations in place across all lakes to protect the wai. (flexible, timely & proactive)
2. Sustained wallaby, possum and other pest control in priority catchments
3. Whole-of-system management reflecting 'ki uta ki tai'
4. Recognition of mauri as central to decision-making