

Rāpaki Mātaitai Reserve Proposed bylaws

Mātaitai Vision

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

Key Objective of the Mātaitai 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 our marae);

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

Proposed bylaws

3. To meet the above objectives, the Mātaitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe Mātaitai bylaws are necessary in order to enhance stocks for future use.
4. Many of the proposed bylaws are supported by surveys conducted by Te Tiaki Mahinga Kai (a research and monitoring support team for Customary Protection Area (CPA) managers centred at the University of Otago) in April 2015. The surveys showed:
 - Pipi at Rāpaki were in an isolated depth band and as such are highly vulnerable to overfishing.
 - Tuaki growth rate studies indicate that tuaki at Rāpaki take seven years to reach an edible size (35mm). The April survey also revealed that there were relatively low numbers of adult tuaki at Rāpaki and juvenile tuaki also occupied a distinct depth band.
 - Other important mahinga kai shellfish species are present in low densities also at the sites surveyed.
 - Stands of habitat forming kelps in the upper harbour have been severely depleted.
5. As such the Mātaitai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki wish to take proactive steps to prevent any further reduction in important mahinga kai stocks and their habitats and, instead, rebuild populations to the levels of abundance enjoyed by our ancestors.

Shellfish catch limits, prohibitions and area closures

6. To enhance shellfish stocks in the mātaimai, the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe a range of measures are required.
7. The Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe current recreational bag limits are far too high and it is totally inconsistent with the underlying customary philosophy of a mātaimai which is focussed on 'catching a feed'. Customary catch will also be constrained by setting daily catch limits through mātaimai bylaws.
8. To address concerns over the maximum daily limits for some key shellfish stocks, the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe the proposed bylaws below are necessary.
9. Also to protect critical shellfish stocks at the base of the marine food web (such as limpets, chitons and pupu/cats eyes), the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe the proposed bylaw prohibitions are necessary.

Proposed Shellfish Bylaws

- (a) No person may, in any one day, take more than:
 - (i) Thirty tuaki (cockles);
 - (ii) Thirty pipi;
 - (iii) Thirty kutai (mussels);
 - (iv) Ten pāpaka (crabs);
 - (v) Ten tio (oysters):from within the Rāpaki Bay Mātaimai Reserve.
- (b) The taking of shellfish (other than tuaki (cockles), pipi, kutai (mussels), pāpaka (crabs) or tio (oysters)) from within the Rāpaki Bay Mātaimai Reserve is prohibited.

10. Note that the proposed bylaws for pipi and tuaki will replace the existing Rāpaki Mātaimai bylaws for these species.
11. Note also that the Rāpaki Mātaimai already contains a prohibition on the harvesting of pāua – this prohibition will continue.
12. The Rāpaki Mātaimai also contains a bylaw setting out a combined 'other' shellfish bag limit – the proposed harvesting prohibition bylaw outlined above will replace this existing mātaimai bylaw for these species (with the exception for kutai, crabs and oysters that now have proposed individual bag limits).

Finfish catch limits and prohibitions

13. To enhance important finfish stocks in the mātaimai in order to increase access for customary fishers and recreational fishers who have less capacity, Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe the proposed bylaws below are necessary.

Proposed Finfish Bylaws

- (c) No person may, in any one day, take more than:
- (i) Twenty pātiki (flounder);
 - (ii) Two rāwaru (blue cod);
 - (iii) Five hoka (red cod);
 - (iv) Ten mārari (butterfish);
 - (v) Ten moki;
 - (vi) Two kōiro (conger eel);
- from within the Rāpaki Bay Mātaimai Reserve.
- (d) No person may, in any one day, take more than ten finfish (other than whairepō (skates and rays), pātiki (flounder), rāwaru (blue cod), hoka (red cod), mārari (butterfish), moki or kōiro (conger eel)) from within the Rāpaki Bay Mātaimai Reserve.

14. Note also that the Rāpaki Mātaimai already contains a prohibition on the harvesting of whairepō – this prohibition will continue.

Seaweed harvesting prohibition

15. The Rāpaki Mātaimai already contains a prohibition on the harvesting of native seaweeds – this prohibition will continue.

Reporting bylaw

16. The Rāpaki Mātaimai already contains a bylaw that all fishing is to be reported to the Mātaimai Tangata Tiaki within five days – this reporting bylaw will continue. The appointment of HFOs will hopefully help fishers to comply with this bylaw.

Current bylaws applying to Rāpaki Mātaimai

17. The bylaws that currently apply to Rāpaki Mātaimai can be found in the “Fisheries (Rāpaki Bay Mātaimai Reserve Bylaws) Notice 2000 (No. F165)”.
18. Or at <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2000-go9052>

Map – Rāpaki Mātaitai.

