



Ngāti Wai ki Aotea

Motairehe Marae Trust Board

Darren Cleave (Chair), Hope Munro (Treasurer), Sonya Palmer (Secretary)
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Motairehe Marae Trust
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Catherine Bay
Aotea 0991

Request for Rahui to be enforced under section 186A

Tena koe e te Minita,

On behalf of Motairehe Marae and beneficiaries from Aotea, Great Barrier Island, this letter is to formally, and urgently, request a section 186A closure for a minimum of two years to prohibit all take of scallops (tipa), abalone (paua) and crayfish (koura) within the entirety of our rohe which is outlined in the attached map.

We request that the temporary closure to apply to scallops (tipa), abalone (paua) and crayfish (koura) as we hear from communities within our rohe that are concerned about the decline of these species. The overfishing and poor fishing practices, both recreational and commercial, have contributed to the steady decline in these fish stocks. We have sent two letters to MPI to first, advise of the resolution to lay a rahui and secondly, re-assert the mana of our rohe.

Background - Rāhui over Aotea

Over the last few months the matter of a Rahui has been discussed many times.

1. The issue of Rahui was raised at the very first meeting of the Ngāti Rehua – Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust in July 2021. This was in response to whanau, community and hapu outreach reacting to the pressures placed on our kaimoana within the Hauraki Gulf. At this time there was general support for a rahui.
2. [REDACTED], Ngatiwai kaumatua, responded positively noting it was a good idea and that the Ngatiwai kahui kautmatua would support the kaumatua from Aotea in this process.

CONTACT EMAIL chair@motairehemarae.co.nz [REDACTED]

3. In September 2021, Opo Ngawaka, the Chair of Ngāti Rehua – Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust raised the matter of a rahui for home at the Ngatiwai kahui kautmatua hui.
4. A formal resolution was passed by the Ngāti Rehua – Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust to support a rahui in a subsequent hui.

During the week of 22 November 2021 Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea trustee, Taumata Toki, engaged in community discussions and personally visited/spoke with whanau and kaumatua from home – including [REDACTED]

6. Aotea community members - [REDACTED] support a rahui.
7. Social media on Aotea support a rahui. (Attached Below)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/682942015150399/permalink/3464110057033567/> - Post from Barrier Chitchat, a facebook group for residents of Aotea

Rahui and Voluntary Ban

On Monday 7 February 2022, Motairhe Marae Trust passed a resolution to lay a rahui over Aotea. The tikanga process to set the rahui will be undertaken as soon as weather permits. This will involve a dawn ceremony with karakia at the four points around Aotea.

Research – Ahu Moana

Ahi kaa whānau, the kaitiaki of our moana, know personally that paua, tipa and koura are now out of reach for our kaumatua - and these beds are now barren. This is also captured in the plethora of reports (including State of the Gulf report, Seachange Ministerial Report) that all warn of the diminishing fish stocks within the Hauraki Gulf.

Understanding the alarming condition of our fish stocks, Aotea has been selected as a pilot for the Ahu Moana concept. Subsequently, two relevant key initiatives of the Aotea Local Board Plan 2020 (p 14) include:

- Engagement with the community on an Ahu Moana approach for marine protection and

- Investigate and implement marine protection, using tools such as, Ahu Moana, rā hui, and marine reserves with mana whenua, the community, and DOC, with Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari as a guide

Ministers Parker and Verrall during the launch of the Sea Change Report noted that they “will work with mana whenua and local communities to trial localised management approaches to fisheries and conservation through Ahu Moana pilots”.

We see this rahui as an important and pivotal first stage for an Ahu Moana programme and seek the support of Minister Parker to approve this rahui.

Naku noa,



Darren Cleave

Motairehe Marae Trust – Chairperson