



Te Ohu Kaimoana's Response to  
the Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te  
Hoiho and Te Mahere Rima Tau

Te Ohu  
**Kaimoana**  




# Contents

---

Introduction	3
Our view	3
About Te Ohu Kaimoana	4
We base our advice on Te hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua	4
Context	5
Appendix A	7

## Introduction

---

1. Te Ohu Kaimoana welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho and Te Mahere Rima Tau.
2. This document outlines Te Ohu Kaimoana’s response to Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho and Te Mahere Rima Tau. Our interest in the matter relates to our responsibility to protect the rights and interests of Iwi and assist the Crown to discharge its obligations under the Deed of Settlement and the Treaty of Waitangi. To achieve our purpose, we are guided by the principles of Te Hā o Tangaroa. We do not intend for this response to derogate from or override any response or feedback provided independently by Iwi, through their Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIOs<sup>1</sup>).

## Our view

---

3. Our response to Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho and Te Mahere Rima Tau is summarised below:
  - a. We support the partnership with Kāi Tahu, including their involvement in the governing body and implementation of the strategy. This partnership must be ongoing.
  - b. The Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand must provide resourcing to support implementation of the strategy.
  - c. Conservation measures should be taken where there will be a positive outcome for hoiho. To this end, we recommend collaboration with potentially affected fishers, landowners and tourist operators to develop workable solutions.
  - d. The strategy should be treated as a living document.

## About Te Ohu Kaimoana

---

4. Te Ohu Kaimoana was established to implement and protect the Māori Fisheries Settlement. Its purpose, set out in section 32 of the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, is to “advance the interests of Iwi, individually and collectively, primarily in the development of fisheries, fishing and fisheries-related activities, in order to:
  - a. Ultimately benefit the members of Iwi and Māori generally;
  - b. Further the agreements made in the Māori Fisheries Settlement;
  - c. Assist the Crown to discharge its obligations under the Māori Fisheries Settlement and the Treaty of Waitangi, and
  - d. Contribute to the achievement of an enduring settlement of the claims and grievances referred to in the Māori Fisheries Settlement.

<sup>1</sup> MIO as referred to in The Māori Fisheries Act 2004: in relation to an Iwi, means an organisation recognised by Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Limited under section 13(1) as the representative organisation of that Iwi under this Act, and a reference to a mandated Iwi organisation includes a reference to a recognised Iwi organisation to the extent provided for by section 27.

5. We work on behalf of 58 Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIOs), who represent Iwi throughout Aotearoa. MIOs have approved our Māori Fisheries Strategy and three-year strategic plan, which has as its goal “that MIOs collectively lead the development of Aotearoa’s marine and environmental policy affecting fisheries management through Te Ohu Kaimoana as their mandated agent”. We play a key role in assisting MIOs to achieve that goal.

## We base our view on Te hā o Tangaroa kia ora a tāua

---

6. Te Hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua (the breath of Tangaroa sustains us) is an expression of a Māori world view. It contains the principles we use to analyse modern fisheries policy, and other policies that may affect the rights of Iwi under the Māori Fisheries Settlement. Te Hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua is outlined in Appendix A.
7. In essence, Te Hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua highlights the importance of an interdependent relationship with Tangaroa, including his breath, rhythm and bounty, and the way those aspects work together to sustain both Tangaroa and humanity in an enduring way.
8. Protection of the reciprocal relationship with Tangaroa is an inherent part of the Māori Fisheries Settlement agreed by Māori and the Crown in 1992. The Māori Fisheries Settlement is an important and relevant part of modern fisheries management for Aotearoa.

## Context

---

9. Te Ohu Kaimoana endorses a meaningful partnership approach between Iwi and government agencies. We support the work that has been undertaken to establish and maintain the partnership between Kāi Tahu and government agencies. This approach offers an excellent precedent for development of meaningful partnerships between government agencies and Iwi. Kāi Tahu’s involvement in all stages of the strategy, from its development to implementation of the action plan, is critical to improving the health of hoiho.

### **Immediate action is necessary – action needs to prioritise the issues affecting hoiho**

10. It is important to understand why Northern hoiho populations are in decline. At the same time, immediate action is needed to safeguard these taoka. Conservation measures can be developed to address threats that we already know are affecting hoiho.
  - a. Northern hoiho population:

It must be acknowledged that hoiho are primarily a Subantarctic species, therefore are not well adapted to threats present on mainland Aotearoa. Disease and starvation are the main threats to northern hoiho’s wellbeing. Human disturbance is also known to affect their breeding and ability to rear their chicks.
  - b. Southern hoiho population:

Little is known about this population of hoiho. Gathering information is critical to understand the Southern populations health and abundance.

## **Recommend governing body treats Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho as a living document**

11. Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho has been written as a strategy to clarify the full range of threats to hoiho and their general wellbeing. The approach needs to be flexible to allow for an adaptive approach, in which new information informs implementation of conservation measures for hoiho. This approach will also allow for measurable strategies to be incorporated as time goes on.

## **Te Ohu Kaimoana supports Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho**

12. The Hoiho Te Wawata (vision) and Kā Whāika (5-year and 20-year goals). We support all four goals. However, we would like to comment on two of the goals. In relation to the second goal, the monitoring programme should be underpinned by the guiding principles and operating within five years of the release of this strategy.
13. We note the fourth goal: “both populations are maintaining their geographical distribution and genetic diversity”, may not be achievable as currently worded. Environmental changes may mean the geographic distribution of hoiho will be beyond the control of the strategy – it may make previously inhabited sites unfit for hoiho and/or make new spaces habitable.
14. The Kā Mātāpono (guiding principles) provide the foundation for Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho. Kāi Tahu’s involvement in hoiho conservation underpins these principles. Their ongoing involvement in hoiho conservation can only strengthen the strategy.
15. We endorse Māori/ Kāi Tahu involvement in the Hoiho Technical Group. Hoiho conservation should be resourced through government agencies, as well as being delivered through other workstreams such as Predator Free 2050, Aquatic Environment Working Group and the Conservation Services Programme. We support an annual review to ensure Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho is treated as a living document.

## **Te Ohu Kaimoana supports Te Mahere Rima Tau (Five-year Action Plan)**

16. Te oraka me te aroturukitaka (Health and Monitoring) - we support this strategic priority and highlight the need to incorporate Kāi Tahu tikaka.
17. Kā mea mōrearea o te moana (Marine Threats) – there are three key aspects:
  - Reducing the already low risk of incidental capture of the hoiho is important given their cultural and ecological health. The fishing industry has undertaken voluntary mitigation measures, such as, closing areas to set netting and implemented vessel mitigation plans based around known foraging zones. It will be important to work with fishers to implement any further mitigation measures and that such efforts undertaken by fishers should be supported.
  - Having higher observer coverage is beneficial to allow for reducing the uncertainty around the number of incidental captures. Observer coverage should be used in a manner that allows for the useful collection of data.
  - It is important to understand stressors in the marine environment (pollution, disturbance and disease) and the cumulative effect these may be having on hoiho.

18. Te whakaekeka o te takata (Human Disturbance) – it is important to manage the effects of tourism on hoiho. Management of public interaction with hoiho should reflect their status as taoka for Kāi Tahu. There is occurrence of unregulated public interaction with hoiho that does not reflect their vulnerability or their value.
19. Te nohoka ki te whenua (Terrestrial habitat) – hoiho are present on public and private land. We encourage a collaborative approach with landowners to develop positive conservation solutions.
20. Ka mahi tahi (Working Together) – we strongly endorse opportunities being created for Kāi Tahu whānau to exercise their kaitiakitaka over their taoka. A strategic priority is support and resourcing for hoiho conservation. This is extremely important if operational work is to achieve the goals of the strategy. Government assistance with resourcing is critical.

Nāku noa, nā



Dion Tuuta  
Chief Executive

## The concept of “Te Hā o Tangaroa Kia Ora Ai Tāua” underpins the work of Te Ohu Kaimoana.

This statement means “the breath of Tangaroa sustains us” and refers to the ongoing Māori relationship with Tangaroa – including his breath, rhythm and bounty. Recognising our ongoing interdependent relationship acknowledges the Māori worldview that humanity is descended from Tangaroa and all children of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. We are part of the ongoing cycle of life.

The concept of “Te hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua” is underpinned by whakapapa, tiaki, hauhake and kai.

Whakapapa recognises that when Māori (and by extension Te Ohu Kaimoana as an agent of iwi) are considering policy affecting Tangaroa we are considering matters which affect out tupuna – rather than a thing or an inanimate object.

### WHAKAPAPA

Māori descend from Tangaroa and have a reciprocal relationship with our tupuna

### HAUHAKE

Māori have a right and obligation to cultivate Tangaroa, including his bounty, for the betterment of Tangaroa (as a means of managing stocks) and support Tangaroa’s circle of life

# TE HĀ O TANGAROA KIA ORA AI TĀUA

### TIAKI

Māori have an obligation to care for Tangaroa, his breath, rhythm and bounty, for the betterment of Tangaroa and for the betterment of humanity as his descendants

### KAI

Māori have a right to enjoy their whakapapa relationship with Tangaroa through the wise and sustainable use of the benefits Tangaroa provides to us

We recognise that as descendants of Tangaroa, iwi Māori have the obligation and responsibility to Tiaki – care for our tupuna so that Tangaroa may continue to care and provide for iwi.

Our right and obligation of hauhake (cultivation) is underpinned by our tiaki obligations and responsibilities to Tangaroa. Ultimately our right to kai – to enjoy the benefits of our living relationship with Tangaroa and its contribution to the survival of Māori identity – depends upon our ability to Tiaki Tangaroa in a meaningful way.

Te Hā o Tangaroa underpins our purpose, policy principles and leads our kōrero every time we respond to the Government on policy matters. It is important to us that the Government understands the continuing importance of Tangaroa and recognises the tūhonotanga that Māori hold as his uri.

All decisions and advice offered by Te Ohu Kaimoana on fisheries is underpinned by this kōrero to ensure the sustainability of Tangaroa’s kete for today and our mokopuna yet to come.

Te Ohu  
**Kaimoana**

