

Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board

Annual Report 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atua



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Chairperson's Report

The Board's major focus for 2017/2018 is progressing the development of a new Te Hiku Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), relating to public conservation land within the combined areas of interest of Te Aupōuri, Te Rarawa, Ngāi Takoto and Ngāti Kuri. The Board has completed work with the Department to develop a preliminary agreement. This agreement sets out:

1. The principle matters to be included in the CMS
2. The manner in which those matters are to be dealt with, and
3. The practical steps that the parties will take to prepare and seek approval of the draft document

The Board is continuing to mature from the 'new board on the block' status by reaching out to the other conservation boards at formal meetings i.e. Northland Conservation Board (NZB) and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA), this enables our Board representatives to build relationships and communicate our vision for the future of conservation management in Te Hiku o Te Ika.

The Board wishes to acknowledge all the efforts of Te Hiku people to supporting conservation projects and education awareness programmes.

1. Introduction

This is the second Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board ("the Board") Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Board had seven members for the 2017-2018 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Three members were re-appointed under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987 (being Chris Jenkins, Mike Finlayson and Peter Furze), three members were re-appointed under the terms of s82 of the Claims Settlement Acts 2015 (being Rangitane Marsden, Sheridan Waitai and Abraham Witana). Sonny Christie from Te Aupouri was newly appointed on the 30 June 2018 by the Minister. Mary-Jane Arden did not seek re-appointment for another term therefore the eighth position on the board remained vacant.

Conservation Boards are independent bodies, established by statute. The Board established under the Settlement legislation is an important component of the Korowai area and represents iwi, the community and offers interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

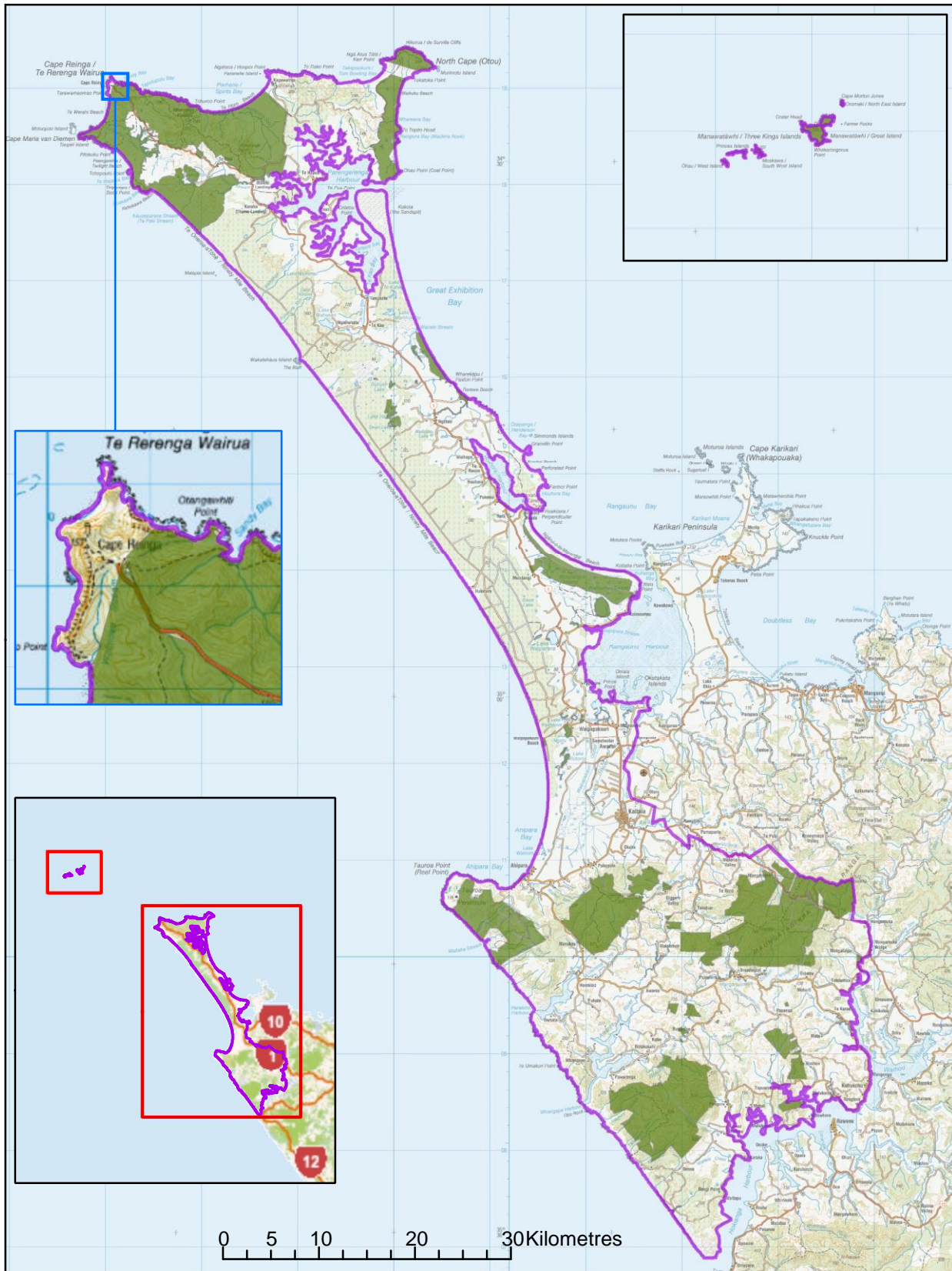
- The recommendation of a Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Acknowledge Iwi Waahi tapu and cultural materials plans and give effect to these as appropriate
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- Reporting on the implementation of the current Northland CMS
- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters

Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Settlement Legislation, Conservation Act or any other Act

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the NZCA with an Annual Report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Board submits this Annual Report.

2. Conservation Board Region – Te Hiku O Te Ika

Figure I. He Korowai Area



3. Board Functioning

3.1 Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, to review and amend such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, to review and amend such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General
 - a. On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - b. On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act

3.2 Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each Board may –
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

3.3 Board Membership

There were 7 Board members for the reporting year.

Rangitane Marsden and Sheridan Waitai are the elected Co-Chairs.

The following table lists the membership of Te Hiku Conservation Board between the period of 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 and their term of office.

BOARD MEMBER	AREA	TERM START	TERM END
Rangitane Marsden	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018
Sheridan Waitai	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018
Abraham Witana	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018
Sonny Christie	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018
Peter Furze	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018
Chris Jenkins	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018
Michael (Mike) Finlayson	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2018

Table I: Board Membership

3.4 Members Profiles

Sheridan WAITAI

Strategic Community Advisor, Ministry of Social Development



Sheridan Waitai's tribal affiliations are Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi and Tainui. She has a strong public service background and Treaty leadership and business models.

Ngāti Kuri tona tikanga,
Ngāti Kuri tona Rangatira.

Rangitane MARSDEN

CEO NgaiTakoto Iwi Authority



Iwi Affiliations: NgaiTakoto, Ngati Kuri, Tainui. He has a strong public service background and Treaty leadership and business models.

Abraham WITANA

Te Runanga Te Rarawa Anga Mua



Abraham (Abe) Witana is the **Te Rarawa Iwi** Representative to the Te Hiku Conservation Board. Currently he is the inaugural Chairman for Te Rarawa Anga Mua.

He has experience in governance structures and environmental / conservation management.

Sonny CHRISTIE

Teacher – Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Pukemiro



Iwi Affiliation: Te Aupouri. He is a trustee of Te Runanga Nui O Aupouri Trust. He has over 20 years' experience as a teacher in Maori immersion schools. He has a close association with many influential kaumatua within Te Aupouri and will use his role on the Board to act as a conduit between them and the Department.

Chris JENKINS



Chris Jenkins retired from the Department of Conservation in 2015. Prior to retirement he was Director Services for the Northern North Island and prior to that Conservator Northland. In these roles he gained experience in a wide range of conservation and management issues affecting Northland.

Mike FINLAYSON



Mike Finlayson is the Te Hiku elected representative for the Northland Regional Council and Chairs their Pest Management working party. He has a keen interest in Pest and Predator control and has managed broad scale wild ginger control projects through the Herekino Landcare group. He has 30 years Board experience and enjoys getting out "into the wild" in various recreational pursuits

Peter FURZE



Peter furze is a community activist working as an advocate for WINZ, the District Courts, ACC, Immigration and currently "Taking Back The Streets" which is a community-based initiative working under the Nga Mahi Mo Te Tangata (Working For The People). Peter is a keen surfer.

3.5 Board Meetings

The Te Hiku Conservation Board held three formal meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings were held in the most central location, being Kaitaia, for ease of public access.

The Board has been working on the development of a preliminary agreement on how to develop the Te Hiku Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). This includes a “staged” approach. Those stages are:

STAGE 1

Focusing on information gathering such as values, issues, opportunities including cultural and recreational uses. Iwi, hapu, whānau and community engagement will be vital in the review and development of the new conservation policy for Te Hiku.

STAGE 2

An informal and non-notified step that will enable Iwi, hapu, whānau and community to provide initial input on the proposed Draft”. Once this part has been completed and feedback considered the final step will be to finalise the draft through the statutory process for developing a conservation management strategy which then allows all members of the public to participate through a submissions and hearing process”

The Boards responsibility is; after consultation and agreement on how the CMS is to be drafted, to support and recommend approval of the CMS for Te Hiku Iwi.

A CMS is a 10-year plan for managing the conservation estate, taking account of Iwi cultural materials, waahi tapu plans, protecting the natural and historic features and wildlife of the Te Hiku region.



Photo: Abraham Witana Te Rarawa greets the Board and Members of the public to the first formal Te Hiku Board Meeting Friday 5 August 2016.



Photo: From left to right, Sue Reed-Thomas, Director Operations, Northern North Island; Rangitane Marsden, Co-Chair, Ngai Takato; Aaron Taikato, Pou Tairangahau; Mary-Jane Arden, Member; Chris Jenkins, Member; Rahuia Kapa, Te Aupouri, Member; Sheridan Waitai, Co-Chair, Ngati Kuri; Mike Finlayson, Member; Peter Furze, Member; David Neho, Operations Manager Kaitaia; Hamish Eglinton, Statutory Manager; Rick McGovern-Wilson, Snr Statutory Bodies Advisor; Abraham Witana, Te Rarawa.

Representatives on the new Te Hiku Conservation Board first gathered on the 15 July 2016 at the Te Ahu Centre in Kaitaia. This first informal meeting of the Board was an opportunity for the members to meet each other and build up a collective understanding of the He Korowai, a key part of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Settlements for Te Hiku Iwi regarding conservation lands.

BOARD MEETING DATE	MEETING LOCATION AND VENUE
11th August 2017	Te Ahu, Kaitaia
17th November 2017	Te Ahu, Kaitaia
29th June 2018	Te Ahu, Kaitaia

Table II: Board meeting dates and location

3.6 Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of formal meetings held during the year.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including working meetings and representative roles.

BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEETINGS
Rangitane Marsden	3/3
Sheridan Waitai	1/3
Abraham Witana	3/3
Sonny Christie	1/3
Chris Jenkins	3/3
Peter Furze	3/3
Mike Finlayson	3/3

Table III: Attendance



TE RERENGA WAIRUA is part of the “spiritual pathway” and is highly significant to Maori as the departure place for spirits embarking on their return journey to Hawaiiiki.

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. If you would like more information on the Te Hiku Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Whangarei phone 027 540 3701 or e-mail heglinton@doc.govt.nz.