10 IWI MONITORING

Overview

- Funding from the Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund was granted to Te Mahurehure Roopu Whenua Taonga Trust, the Utakura Maori Committee and Te Whanau o Rangiwhakaahu
- The Ngatiwai Trust Board was funded separately from the Iwi Monitoring Fund, through the general monitoring pool, and has continued their macroinvertebrate sampling programme. FDE and Industrial discharges have been shown to have the greatest adverse impact upon streams within the Ngatiwai's rohe

Joint Iwi Fund Monitoring

The Northland Regional Council maintains a **Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund (JIMF)**, an initiative set up by the Regional Council to help build relationships between Northland Iwi and the Council. In the last financial year three groups were successful in gaining funding from this Fund: the Utakura Maori Committee for water quality monitoring, Te Mahurehure Roopu Whenua Taonga Trust received funding for kokako monitoring and Te Whanau o Rangiwhakaahu were granted funding to do further pipi surveying.

Utakura Environmental Monitoring Group

The Utakura River is the only major outlet of Lake Omapere. In October 2002, the Utakura Maori Committee was granted funding and assistance from the Northland Regional Council to establish the **Utakura Awakakariki Water Monitoring Project** (UAWMP). The purpose of this project was to provide quantitative information on the health of the Utakura River in a manner consistent with the NRC's Lake Omapere monitoring programme. Eventually, it is hoped that an Iwi/Hapu Management Plan (IMP) will be established.

Here an NRC monitoring staff member works with members of the Utakura Environmental Committee to test the water quality at the Utakura River

Te Mahurehure Roopu Whenua Taonga Trust

The Waipoua/Waima/Mataraua forest complex contains the last known breeding population of North Island kokako in Northland. **Te Mahurehure Roopu Whenua Taonga Trust** (TMRWT), in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, are involved in protecting this valuable ecological treasure. TWRWT was granted funding from the Northland Regional Council to monitor the population density and location of this bird.

Between October 2002 and May 2003, the TMRWT conducted 8 surveys gathering information such as; the population makeup and size, determining if the birds are reproducing couples and the range that they move and nest in. It is anticipated this information will be used for habitat conservation and the establishment of a plan to protect the remaining kokako population. These surveys were centred on kokako in the Waima forest, which is spread over both Maori and DoC land, and early reports suggest that at least three single and one breeding pair live within this area.

The North Island Kokako (photo taken from www.123.co.nz)

Pest management will be an essential part of any management plan. The TMRWT hope to extend their programme beyond just monitoring kokako populations, and actively work towards controlling predators and pests within the Waima forest.

The trust has expressed a desire to progressively develop a relationship with the Northland Regional Council. To this end, a comprehensive report from the TMRWT for the NRC is due by the end of 2003.

Te Whanau o Rangiwhakaahu

While this group was successful in gaining funding through the Councils' Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund the project was not started.

Ngatiwai Monitoring

The Ngatiwai Trust Board were successful in their submission to the Annual Plan and were awarded funding from the general monitoring pool to further their studies of macroinvertebrates at various sites in and around Whangarei. The Trust Board have been successful in previous years in gaining funding through the Councils Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund.

One of the biggest concerns for Te Iwi o Ngatiwai is the state of the waterways in and around Whangarei. Over successive years Ngatiwai have been successful in gaining funding from the JIMF to conduct Macroinvertebrate studies at various sites. This involves assessing water quality by checking for the presence/absence of macroinvertebrates in the streams.

Monitoring of macroinvertebrate communities has shown that dairy shed effluent and industrial discharges are having the greatest adverse impact on streams within Ngatiwai's rohe. Quarries have also been shown to have a detrimental effect upon stream health. Other areas of concern identified by Ngatiwai are the potential impacts of poorly managed forestry and run-off from major roads.

Ngatiwai found the healthiest streams are in predominantly native bush catchmentseven when they are close to urban areas and they therefore believe there is potential for improving stream health by replanting with native species, particularly in residential and industrial areas.