

JOINT IWI MONITORING

Highlights 2001-2002

- The Ngatiwai Trust Board Resource management Unit has carried out macroinvertebrate monitoring in Whangarei streams.
- Te Whanau Rangi Whakaahu has monitored pipi populations in two Matapouri rivers.
- The Waikare Inlet Taiapure Committee is monitoring nutrient pollution of the Waikare Inlet.

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

The Ngatiwai Research Management Unit is involved with monitoring macro-invertebrates at 50 sites within the Whangarei district. The project involves investigating water quality by checking the presence of macro-invertebrates with differing sensitivity to water pollution. Water quality tests can only check the water at a specific moment in time. A specific pollution event may be missed if it has already been washed away. However, the tiny insects and macro-invertebrates in a waterway can reveal the health of a stream, as any pollution will have destroyed any particularly sensitive populations.

Most of these sites were sampled as part of the same program last year. Comparisons between these surveys show an improvement at 30% of sites but deterioration at 10% of sites. It was observed that sites with riparian buffer strips all scored highly.



Macroinvertebrate Sampling

Pipi Population Surveys

At Matapouri, the local hapu is being funded to conduct surveys of pipi beds in two rivers that are tributaries to Matapouri estuary. This survey has been conducted for the last four years.

The hapu members had become concerned at the decreasing size of pipi and hope the study can help discover if any factors such as silting or pollution is affecting the growth and survival of the shellfish.

In the Parangarau River, monitoring has shown a decrease in the silt in the river over time and an increase in the number of pipis. In the Te Wairoa River, greater numbers of pipi have been found in water with less silt, and fewer pipis in water with high silt. Te Whanua Rangiwakaahu has also discovered an unusually high mortality among the larger pipis.



Matapouri Bay

Waikare Inlet Water Quality Monitoring

The Waikare Inlet Taiapure Committee are concerned about the long term effects of sewage and other pollution on water quality of the Waikare Inlet. The group started nutrient monitoring of the inlet this winter and will sample again over the summer. NRC is also supporting the Committee to carry out some preliminary investigation of feral shellfish beds and to record oral histories of water quality. This first report will be submitted to NRC in June 2003.

Future Monitoring

- Ngatiwai trust board has been granted \$10 000/ year from NRC to continue their work. This money is not from the Joint Iwi Monitoring fund, so will free up funds to allow other groups to participate. It is encouraging that Ngatiwai has used the fund to develop their capacity
- Several new groups have expressed interest and presented some good ideas, creating the opportunity for the council to work and build relationships with new groups.