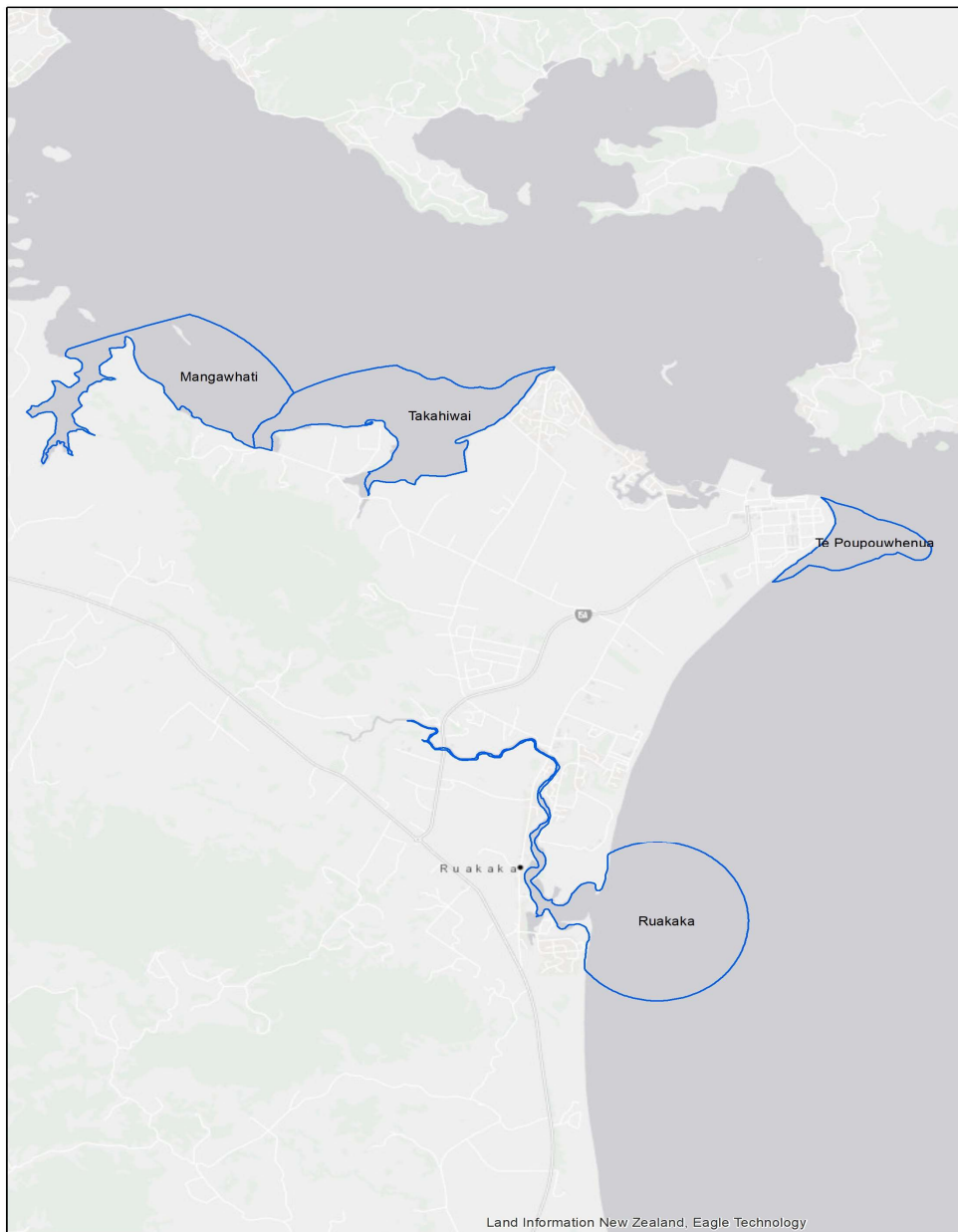


Site, area, or landscape of significance to tangata whenua work sheet

Tangata whenua group: Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board

Site, area, or landscape name: Ruakaka Estuary Mahinga Mataitai

Map of Patuharakeke Mahinga Mataitai Areas:



What are the values that should be protected?

- Traditional and contemporary Mahinga Mataitai values and other historical uses and events outlined in the evidence to follow, including:
 - Traditional harvest and customary management of kaimoana and other taonga species
 - Source of rongoa (medicinal plants)
 - Source of weaving materials
 - Source of mātauranga
- Ecological values; biodiversity, shellfish beds, mangrove nurseries for juvenile fish, taonga species and habitats that Patuharakeke have obligations toward in respect of kaitiakitanga.

Why is the site, area or landscape significant?

Traditional significance:

Resource use:

- The salt marsh areas in the southern arm of the estuary were harvest sites for harakeke, muka and other plants used for weaving and rongoa (healing and medicinal purposes).
- Manu harvest areas, including Kuaka (Godwit) customary harvesting in and around the intertidal area.
- Hangi stones were collected at river outlets.

Travel and communication linkages:

- The Ruakaka River historically provided important transportation routes. These trade and transport networks served a major social and political function in maintaining the linkages from one hapū to the next. For Patuharakeke, acting as kaitiaki (guardian of the resources and taonga) and kaimanaaki (host), this helped entrench its recognition as a means of maintaining its viability as a hapū holding mana over its rohe.

Area of mana moana for fisheries and other rights:

- Significant kaimoana (and other taonga species) harvesting and management area used historically and to this day by Patuharakeke as mana moana.

Implementation of traditional management measures:

- Rāhui are still practiced in contemporary times when drownings occur at Ruakaka.

Cultural significance:

Implementation of concepts such as kaitiakitanga and manākitanga:

- Patuharakeke consider the waters of Ruakaka Estuary to be a taonga gifted by tupuna that they as kaitiaki have a duty to conserve and protect for future generations. Patuharakeke continue to carry out duties as kaitiaki of these Mahinga Mataitai.
- Patuharakeke tupuna harvested kai moana as a common act of kaitiakitanga and manākitanga. The Rohe Moana Management Plan sets out intentions to recover depleted stocks and ensure future capacity to provide taonga kai moana to manaaki manuhiri at hui and tangihanga on the marae and on the tables of whanau homes.
- Patuharakeke have consistently carried a kaitiaki role as; beach ambassadors, kaitiaki customary Permit Issuers, Honorary Fisheries Officers, Monitors and surveyors, and managers of areas of concern.
- Patuharakeke are active in monitoring mahinga kai, including via a 5-year Community Pipi and Cultural Health Monitoring Programme currently underway at Ruakaka Estuary. This programme is funded through the Whangarei Harbour Health Improvement Fund. The monitoring employs cultural health indicators alongside joint surveys with research organisations such as NIWA. These activities serve as a clear expression of kaitiakitanga.

Spiritual significance

- Baptisms formerly have taken place at Ruakaka River/Estuary.

What is the evidence of endorsement by the relevant tangata whenua community?

Ruakaka Estuary Mahinga Mataitai has been described, mapped and approved for identification by Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board and wider hapū through numerous ratification hui and Tribunal hearing, and is enshrined in the following hapū endorsed documents:

- The Patuharakeke Sites of Significance to Māori Final Cultural landscape Report 2015
- Patuharakeke Rohe Moana Management Plan 2018
- Patuharakeke Statement of Claim before the Waitangi Tribunal (Te Paparahi o Te Raki, Northland Inquiry 2011)
- Patuharakeke Hapū Environmental Management Plan 2014

The Patuharakeke Hapū Environmental Management Plan 2014 provides further written evidence of the significance of this area. It also sets out a key objective in relation to this area, namely that all mahinga kai sites in the rohe are managed, monitored and enhanced by Patuharakeke.

That this is supported by the relevant tangata whenua community is evidenced by the process of the plan development, namely:

- Formulation of a hapū “working party” to lead the review and update of the HEMP;
- A Desktop review of existing plan, other HEMP’S and identification of gaps;
- An initial workshop to form the working party and allocate tasks;
- One initial hui-a-hapū at the start of the work programme to seek hapu input on the vision and clarification/ identify “resource” issues of significance to Patuharakeke;
- Four wananga/workshops with working party and other key hapū members to discuss draft provisions (issues, objectives, policies and methods) for the HEMP;
- A “report back” hui-a-hapū seeking ratification of draft plan with presentation of the issues of significance, policy direction and draft provisions to the wider hapū through hui for comment and endorsement;
- Presentation and circulation of the full draft for feedback and editorial review;
- Presentation of the completed HEMP to Local Authorities and Agencies.