

# WAITUTU MATAITAI

## ANNUAL REPORT

10 March 2016

We present the first Waitutu Customary Marine Reserve Report at the Waiau Club, King Street, Tuatapere.

This is an unusual report because at this point, not one Customary Authorisation has been issued.

Because the area ticked all the boxes for a Customary Reserve, or Mataitai as they are known, and because our long-term plan was for tourism, we wanted a pristine seashore to go with our pristine forest, so people would want to come and see it.

Mataitai is a partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries and is managed by Maori with the skills to do that, and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries after being nominated by a Papatipu Runanga as Kai Tiaki.

We applied for Mataitai on 7 February 2001 so that it would be in place by the time we had a Lodge built and a Caretaker on site.

The legislation for Mataitai is covered in the South Island Customary Fishing Regulations which take precedence over all other fishing regulations, and is part of the Crown-Ngai Tahu Settlement.

When our Chairman, John Southerwood, signed the Waitutu Forest Settlement Act on 8 March 1996 with Dennis Marshall for the Crown, we then had a partnership with the Department of Conservation to manage our forest as a part of the National Park, in return for never milling the forest, and this started and has continued to see us work together to keep Waitutu Forest in a pristine condition.

The local Ministry of Fisheries are great to work with as well, but the Ministry of Fisheries in Wellington are something else.

They are responsible for the state of our coast being so desecrated and devoid of paua in the first place. Our elders told them there was only one way paua could be commercially fished, and that was to give each fisher or Company an area of their own, so that they would learn how they would have to leave groups of breeding stock, or end up like areas are now, with nothing.

They told our Kaumatua “thank you, we’ve heard what you have said”, and put paua quota out there by the ton.

Because those in the Ministry of Fisheries in Wellington chose to believe that Commercial fishers told them, and presumed that our Kaumatua were providing incorrect information, it was not until we had a survey done by the Marine Science branch of Otago University in 2010, that they had to realise they were wrong, and started to do what should have been done 9 years ago.

The area we applied to have covered under the Mātaitai, was from the mouth of the Wairaurahiri to the lighthouse at Long Point, for very good management reasons, plus it was a fixed line that local Compliance were happy with.

What we were granted was just over one-third of that, from the Wairaurahiri River to the Crombie Stream, but now went out to sea into an area that was no use to us in the long term, but may save us the work of re-seeding along our shore because it will keep Commercial out from catching paua where they will be making their way in from where it is too deep to dive.

As soon as our Mātaitai was ratified in 2014, we applied for a total paua closure, and we were notified that this was in place on 11 September 2015.

It has taken us that long to hit the target we set on 7 February 2001.

When the Ministry of Fisheries started to issue quota for fish, Ngai Tahu took them to Court. The Courts all ruled that because of the Treaty of Waitangi, all fish were Customary fish.

The Ministry then set about producing the document now known as the Sealord Deal, where the Crown guaranteed in the Settlement that Maori would never be tied to a quota, but would be a partner able to take what fish was needed.

We would all like to know why this Partnership has not worked in the same way as the one the Waitutu Incorporation has with the Department of Conservation.

In January this year, Otago University Marine Science leaders and students carried out another survey of the GPS transects, and report a little improvement in the area, but think it will take some years to recover to what it was.

Graham Metzger  
Kai Tiaki

**WAITUTU INCORPORATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MATAITAI MEETING**

**10 March 2016, 10 a.m.**

Held at Waiau Town & Country Club, Tuatapere.

Present: 10 people

Graham Metzger, Kaitiaki, presented the first Annual Report to the meeting, setting out the history of the area leading up to implementing the Mataitai. The report advised that no customary authorisations have been issued. A Bylaw is currently in place prohibiting all recreational and commercial paua fishing within the Mataitai reserve.

Graham provided copies of the original marine survey. Another survey has just been completed, and shows an improvement on the last one. The research team encountered bad weather during the survey, but completed two-thirds of the survey, which will be enough to provide a full report.

They had 10 people doing the survey this year, instead of 6 or 7. They will return every 5 years to do another survey, and they will have new groups of students who can carry it out as part of their training.

The Mataitai locks out all the commercial fishers who have stripped the area of paua in the past. With the deeper area covered by the approved Mataitai, it covers the whole area from where the paua migrate from, and we won't need to re-seed it.

We will need to print up our own authorization application forms, so all the required information is provided. Graham suggested that the information for the application form could be provided by email, the authorisation completed by the Kaitiaki, and issued by the Lodge Caretaker or Kaitiaki. Graham will organise a meeting of Kaitiaki, to go through the process of issuing the authorisations.

There was one event recently when Pete called up and said some people were acting suspiciously. He later spoke to them, and found out they only had crayfish, but said they weren't sure that they could take them. It is only paua that the area is closed for, so crayfish can still be taken, and there are plenty of them around at present.