

31 May 2019

Conservation Services Programme
Department of Conservation
PO Box 10 420
Wellington 6143

Comments on DRAFT Conservation Services Programme Annual Plan 2019/20

1. We welcome the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Conservation Services Programme (CSP) Annual Plan 2019/20. Te Ohu Kaimoana has been involved in a variety of CSP projects and associated science working groups providing us with a comprehensive knowledge base to inform this response. Although our participation and engagement in these processes is active, this is not considered a substitute for engagement with Te Ohu Kaimoana as the mandated agent of Iwi on matters affecting fisheries management.
2. This response is not intended to derogate from or override any response or feedback provided independently by Iwi, through their Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIOs) and/or Asset Holding Companies (AHCs).

About Te Ohu Kaimoana

3. Te Ohu Kaimoana was established to implement and protect the Fisheries Settlement. Its purpose, set out in section 32 of the Māori Fisheries Act, is to “advance the interests of iwi, individually and collectively, primarily in the development of fisheries, fishing and fisheries-related activities, in order to-
 - Ultimately benefit the members of iwi and Māori generally; and
 - Further the agreements made in the Deed of Settlement; and
 - Assist the Crown to discharge its obligations under the Deed of Settlement and the Treaty of Waitangi; and
 - Contribute to the achievement of an enduring settlement of the claims and grievances referred to in the Deed of Settlement.”
4. Since then, Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIOs) have approved a Māori Fisheries Strategy and three-year strategic plan for Te Ohu Kaimoana, which has as its goal “that MIOs collectively lead the development of Aotearoa’s marine and environmental policy affecting fisheries management through Te Ohu Kaimoana as their mandated agent”.

Our purpose and principles

5. **Te hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua** (translated as ‘the breath of Tangaroa sustains us’) provides Te Ohu Kaimoana with guidance on key principles that underpin our consideration of modern fisheries policy. Te hā o Tangaroa includes the following components:
 - Whakapapa:** Māori descend from Tangaroa and have a reciprocal relationship with our tupuna;
 - Tiaki:** To care for Tangaroa, his breath, rhythm and bounty, for the betterment of Tangaroa in order to care for humanity as relatives;
 - Hauhake:** To cultivate Tangaroa, including his bounty, for the betterment of Tangaroa (as a means of managing stocks) and for the sustenance of humanity; and
 - Kai:** To eat, enjoy and maintain the relationship with Tangaroa as humanity.
6. Whakapapa as a principle recognises that when Māori (and Te Ohu Kaimoana as an extension of Iwi Māori) are considering Tangaroa, we are considering the wellbeing of our tupuna (ancestor) – rather than a thing or inanimate object. Therefore, the obligation and responsibility of tiaki – caring for Tangaroa – comes from our descent from our tupuna. Similarly, the responsibility and obligation of hauhake (cultivation) is underpinned by our tiaki obligations to Tangaroa in order to tiaki humanity.
7. Ultimately, humanity’s right to kai – to enjoy the benefits of our whakapapa relationship with Tangaroa – are dependent upon our ability to kiaki and hauhake and how we uphold the responsibility and obligation in a modern and meaningful way to maintain legitimacy through practicing tiaki, hauhake and kai.
8. These principles were inherent within the Treaty of Waitangi fisheries settlement and – Te Ohu Kaimoana asserts - the quota management system, which Māori endorsed as part of that historic settlement. This underscores its ongoing relevance and importance in modern Aotearoa’s fisheries management.

Our perspective

Context

9. Research funded from CSP levies must be attributable to the adverse effects of fishing. Conservation services are defined in Section 2 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act) as follows:
 - a. *research relating to those adverse effects on protected species;*
 - b. *research on measures to mitigate the adverse effects of commercial fishing on protected species;*
 - and*
 - c. *the development of population management plans under the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.*
10. Iwi hold perpetual fishing rights in the form of Settlement quota, this is intrinsically linked to the responsibility to care for all aspects of Tangaroa. The CSP is a service in which funds cost recovered from Iwi quota owners are utilised to provide information on interactions between fishing and protected

species. This information is an important part of enabling quota owners to fulfil their responsibilities as kaitiaki.

11. In reference to the Treaty of Waitangi section (1.4) of the Conservation Services Strategic Statement we note the specific mention of our mandate to act on behalf of Iwi. There is room to enhance the relationship between Department of Conservation and Te Ohu Kaimoana in the CSP space. We suggest an engaged kanohi ki te kanohi approach to consultation for the development of the Annual Plan and determination of conservation costs to quota owners. We invite kōrero between the CSP team and Te Ohu Kaimoana on how to realise this aspiration for 2020/21. We are most happy to host officials from the Department for this.
12. Te Ohu Kaimoana provided commentary to the CSP research project proposals on 22 March 2019 (attached file). These comments and views still stand as our position on the specific proposals in the Draft Annual Plan.
13. In previous responses to CSP, we have expressed concern regarding the lack of an overarching strategic approach toward the generation and prioritisation of research projects. We consider identification of long-term objectives and planning research consistent with that direction a necessary precondition. Only then can we be confident that the most effective use of resources is carried out and realistic, positive outcomes for protected species can be achieved. This is particularly important when data-sets on long-term trends and trajectories are required to make informed decisions for mitigating the effects of fishing on protected species. Accordingly, obtaining the appropriate information to develop such long-term data sets that are robust and fit for analysis needs to be a core part of CSP.
14. The use of Threat Management Plans (TMP) for Rāpoka and Hector's and Māui dolphin are active examples of this approach being successful in the identification of research gaps and priorities. TMP's also ensure that research projects are designed to provide results that assist with determining objectives for the species. The positive effects such plans have for protected species management form a strong evidence-base for wider employment across CSP. We fully support the generation of such carefully thought out approaches for wider protected species management.
15. We support the development of a process that involves rights holders and other interested parties to participate in the development of a strategy to guide cost recovered conservation services. Inclusion of core funded or inter-organisational research projects in this discussion would increase alignment between parties and assist in the identification of research needs. Regardless of how a project is resourced, we consider collaboration as a key way of increasing the capacity and success of conservation efforts.
16. Accordingly, Te Ohu Kaimoana supports and values research, management and conservation initiatives for protected species; we welcome situations in which we can align and assist in mitigating adverse effects on our taonga. We are also ready to engage at a more pertinent level in order to enhance the effectiveness of the CSP.

17. If you have any questions, please contact Tamar Wells: tamar.wells@teohu.maori.nz.

Naku noa, na

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dion Tuuta', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dion Tuuta
Chief Executive