

TE HIKU O TE IKA CONSERVATION BOARD

Annual Report 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987



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Chairperson's Report

The Te Hiku Conservation Board met three times during the year. There were no formal meetings.

The Board continues to focus on advocating and encouraging the Department to start drafting the Te Hiku CMS. To achieve this objective Board members supported the Department to employ a Technical Advisor to work with Te Hiku Iwi in the North. The Board was keen to see the person appointed to this position and to have a focus on facilitating and assisting the drafting of the CMS. The Board was delighted to see that a former Te Hiku Board member, Abraham Witana was appointed to the role.

In late November a second key appointment was made when Annwyn Buchanan was appointed to be the Board Support Officer. Annwyn quickly came up to speed with her role and has provided excellent support for the Board as it pushes for progress on drafting the CMS.

The Board has valued the attendance of the NZCA representative, Nicole Anderson and Adrienne Tari from the Northland Conservation Board at its meetings. Both have provided insights into issues outside the Te Hiku rohe and have also been able to participate in discussions on challenges the Board faces.

During the latter part of the year Department of Conservation organised a series of hui with Te Hiku Iwi to gain agreement on how the CMS would be drafted. The Board was pleased to see this initial step underway. Gaining agreement with Te Hiku Iwi on how the CMS is to be drafted is in line with the intent of the Te Hiku Treaty Settlements as laid out in the Deeds of Settlement and legislation.

The Board sees itself as having a key role in monitoring the drafting of the CMS and ensuring:

1. Iwi views are properly and fully taken account of
2. The resultant CMS has clear and measurable targets that can be monitored by the Board and help build trust between Iwi, the Department and Te Hiku Community.

The Board has a key role in interfacing the resultant draft with the Te Hiku Community and will as a result be looking at ways to improve its communication processes in the coming year.

The Board also envisages working with the NZCA to help them to understand that while having similarities to earlier CMS documents, the Te Hiku CMS is none-the-less unique and must allow Iwi to a meaningful, ongoing and influential input into shaping what the Department does in the Te Hiku rohe.

Ensuring the Iwi input into the CMS and its implementation is meaningful is critical to meeting the intent and spirit of the Te Hiku Treaty Settlement.

The Board wishes to acknowledge all the efforts of Te Hiku people to supporting conservation projects and education awareness programmes.

1. Introduction

This is the third Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board (“the Board”) Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Board had seven members for the 2017-2018 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Three members were re-appointed under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987 (being Chris Jenkins, Mike Finlayson and Peter Furze), three members were re-appointed under the terms of s82 of the Claims Settlement Acts 2015 (being Rangitane Marsden, Sheridan Waitai and Abraham Witana). Sonny Christie from Te Aupouri was newly appointed on the 30 June 2018 by the Minister. Mary-Jane Arden did not seek re-appointment for another term therefore the eighth position on the board remained vacant.

Conservation Boards are independent bodies, established by statute. The Board established under the Settlement legislation is an important component of the Korowai area and represents iwi, the community and offers interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

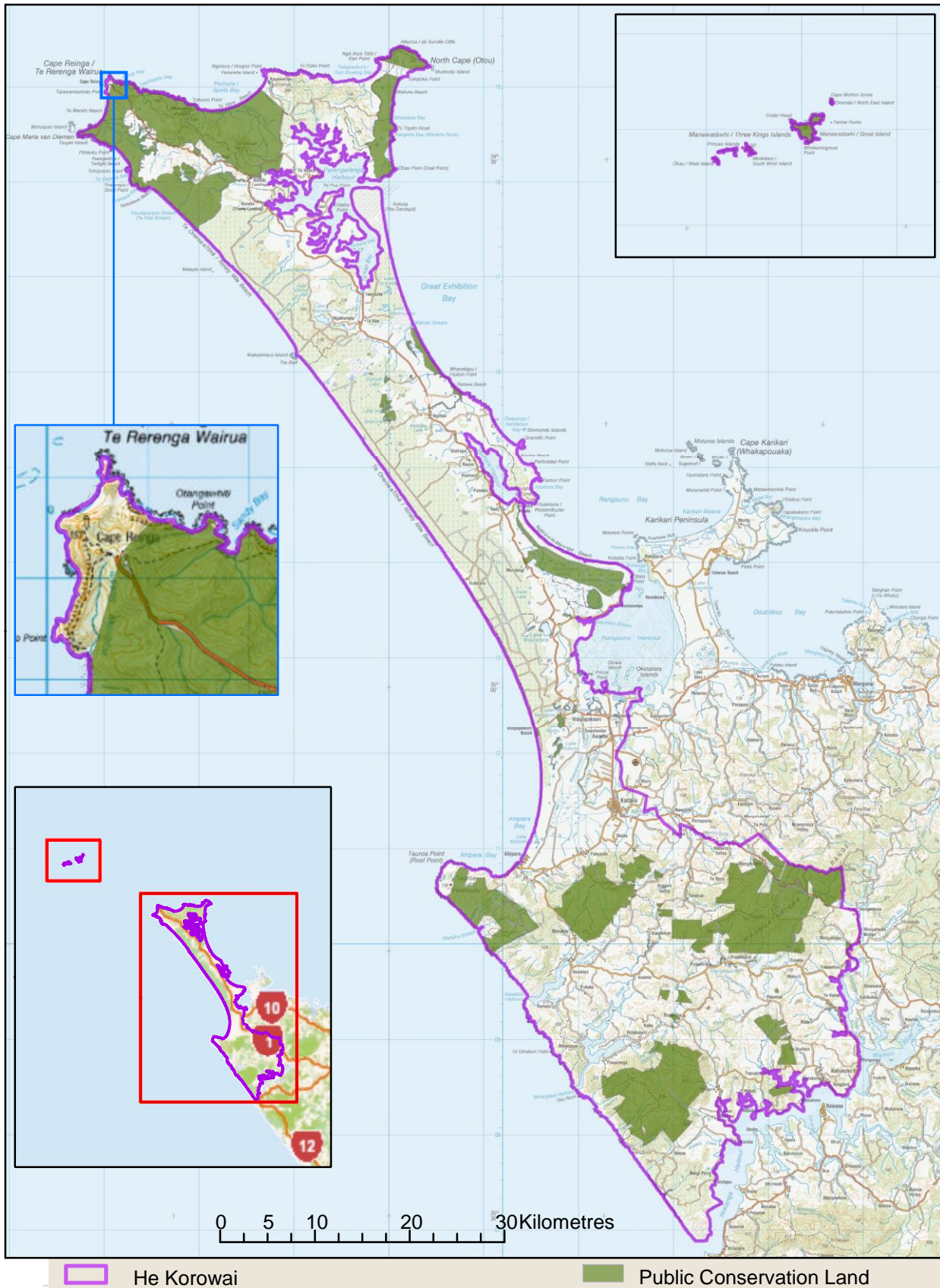
- The recommendation of a Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Acknowledge Iwi Waahi tapu and cultural materials plans and give effect to these as appropriate
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- Reporting on the implementation of the current Northland CMS
- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters

Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Settlement Legislation, Conservation Act or any other Act

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the NZCA with an Annual Report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Board submits this Annual Report.

2. Conservation Board Region – Te Hiku O Te Ika

Figure I. He Korowai Area



3. Board Functioning

3.1 Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, to review and amend such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, to review and amend such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General
 - a. On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - b. On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act

3.2 Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each Board may –
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

3.3 Board Membership

There were 7 Board members for the reporting year.

Rangitane Marsden and Sheridan Waitai are the elected Co-Chairs.

The following table lists the membership of Te Hiku Conservation Board between the period of 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 and their term of office.

BOARD MEMBER	AREA	TERM START	TERM END
Rangitane Marsden - NgaiTakato	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2021
Sheridan Waitai - Ngati Kuri	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2021
Abraham Witana - Te Rarawa	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/10/2018
Sonny Christie - Te Aupouri	Te Hiku	01/07/2018	30/06/2021
Peter Furze - Community	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2021
Chris Jenkins - Community	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2021
Michael (Mike) Finlayson - Community	Te Hiku	17/12/2015	30/06/2021

Table I: Board Membership

3.4 Members Profiles

<p>Rangitane MARSDEN - NgaiTakoto CEO Te Runanga o NgaiTakoto Iwi</p>	<p>Sheridan WAITAI – Ngati Kuri Strategic Community Advisor</p>
 <p>Iwi Affiliations: NgaiTakoto, Ngati Kuri, Tainui. He has a strong public service background and Treaty leadership and business models.</p>	 <p>Sheridan Waitai’s tribal affiliations are Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi and Tainui. She has a good understanding of legislative and policy environment in relation to indigenous issues. “I want to contribute in a meaningful way that supports Ngāti Kuri, cultural revitalisation, Ngāti Kuri, kaitiaki of our taonga, alive and vibrant Ngāti Kuri Whanau, hapu and iwi.”</p>
<p>Abraham WITANA – Te Rarawa Te Runanga Te Rarawa Anga Mua</p>	
	<p>Abraham (Abe) Witana is the Te Rarawa Iwi Representative to the Te Hiku Conservation Board. Currently he is the inaugural Chairman for Te Rarawa Anga Mua. He has experience in governance structures and environmental / conservation management.</p>

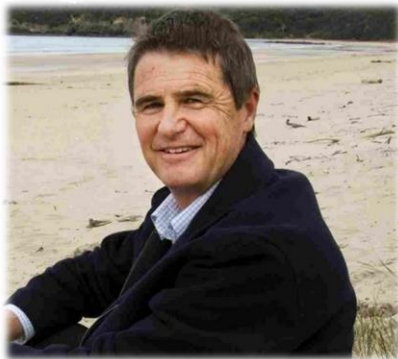
Sonny CHRISTIE – Te Aupouri

Teacher – Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Pukemiro



Iwi Affiliation: Te Aupouri. He is a trustee of Te Runanga Nui O Aupouri Trust. He has over 20 years' experience as a teacher in Maori immersion schools. He has a close association with many influential kaumatua within Te Aupouri and will use his role on the Board to act as a conduit between them and the Department.

Chris JENKINS – Community Representative



Chris Jenkins worked for the Department of Conservation from its formation in 1989 until 2015. The last eleven years of this time was in Northland as Conservator. Since leaving DOC he has been providing advice and assistance to a variety of conservation projects. He is also a trustee and Deputy Chair of the Reconnecting Northland Trust.

Mike FINLAYSON – Community Representative



Mike Finlayson has a keen interest in Pest and Predator control and has managed broad scale wild ginger control projects through the Herekino Landcare group. He has over 30 years Board experience including a recent term as an Northland Regional Councillor representing the Te Hiku constituency. He enjoys getting out "into the wild" in various recreational pursuits, tramping, fishing being two favourites.

Peter FURZE – Community Representative



Peter furze is a community activist working as an advocate for WINZ, the District Courts, ACC, Immigration and Kaitaia Crime Watch which is a community-based initiative working under the Nga Mahi Mo Te Tangata (Working For The People). Peter is a keen surfer.

3.5 Board Meetings

The Te Hiku Conservation Board held no formal meetings during the reporting period. They did however hold three informal working meetings. Venues for the Board meetings were held in the most central location, being Kaitaia, for ease of public access.

Te Hiku Iwi and the Department have been working on the development of a Preliminary Agreement on how to develop the Te Hiku Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). This includes a “staged” approach. Those stages are:

STAGE 1

Focusing on information gathering such as values, issues, opportunities including cultural and recreational uses. Iwi, hapu, whānau and community engagement will be vital in the review and development of the new conservation policy for Te Hiku.

STAGE 2

An informal and non-notified step that will enable Iwi, hapu, whānau and community to provide initial input on the proposed Draft”. Once this part has been completed and feedback considered the final step will be to finalise the draft through the statutory process for developing a conservation management strategy which then allows all members of the public to participate through a submissions and hearing process”

The Boards responsibility is; after consultation and agreement on how the CMS is to be drafted, to support and recommend approval of the CMS for Te Hiku Iwi.

A CMS is a 10-year plan for managing the conservation estate, taking account of Iwi cultural materials, waahi tapu plans, protecting the natural and historic features and wildlife of the Te Hiku region.

Board meeting dates	Meeting location and venues
18/12/2018	Te Ahu Centre, Conference Room, Kaitaia
22/2/2019	Far North REAP, Kaitaia
8/3/2019	Te Ahu Centre, Conference Room, Kaitaia

Table II: Informal Board meeting dates, location and venues

3.6 Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of formal meetings held during the year.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including working meetings and representative roles.

BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEETINGS FORMAL	BOARD MEETINGS IN-FORMAL
Rangitane Marsden	0/3	1/3
Sheridan Waitai	0/3	0/3
Abraham Witana	0/3	0/3
Sonny Christie	0/3	1/3
Chris Jenkins	0/3	3/3
Peter Furze	0/3	3/3
Mike Finlayson	0/3	2/3

Table III: Attendance



Photograph; cave near Kapowairua

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Te Hiku Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation via email; tehikuconservationboard@doc.govt.nz