

Te Kūwaha

promoting Māori development

*E ngā hau e tāwhio ana huri noa
i te motu, tēnei te mihi maioha o
Te Kūwaha ki a koutou ngā iwi e
ngākaunui ana ki ngā āhuetanga
o tō tātou nei taiao. Ko mātou
nei te roopu rangahau Māori o
roto o NIWA e mahi ngatahi ana
i te taha o ō mātou hoa kaupakihi
Māori. Ānei rā ētehi o ngā mahi
rangahau e whakahaere ana i
tō mātou nei roopu i tēnei tau,
nō reira tēnā rā koutou katoa.*

*Willy Emery (seated) and his son
Wiremu using a tau to harvest koura
from Lake Rotoiti.*



Traditional method adapted to monitor lake koura

Koura or freshwater crayfish are important traditional food for Māori. Anecdotally, deteriorating lake conditions appear to have reduced koura abundance. But a lack of quantitative information on these trends hinders sustainable management. A key obstacle is the lack of suitable sampling methods.

We are working with Te Arawa and Ngāti Tūwharetoa to turn their traditional fishing method, tau koura, into a monitoring tool. The Te Arawa/Ngāti Tūwharetoa tau koura method involves resting bundles of bracken fern fronds on the lake bed for koura to take refuge in, and then retrieving the bundles and harvesting the koura. Now iwi and NIWA are successfully using the method to research and monitor lake koura populations. Special thanks to Ian Kusabs (Fisheries Consultant, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa) and Willie Emery (Kaumātua, Ngāti Pikiao & Te Arawa Māori Trust Board, Rotoiti).

Seaweed aquaculture opportunities explored

Lessonia variegata is a brown seaweed found only in New Zealand. It belongs to a group of kelps which is widely used overseas in health and beauty products.

In partnership with Aotearoa Seafoods Ltd (owned by Wakatu Incorporation), we have begun to explore the potential of *Lessonia* as an aquaculture crop. Our preliminary work has focused on spore settlement and growth, and some initial farm trials. Further research is planned.

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