

Te Kūwaha

promoting Māori development

Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā!

Tēnei te manu o Taihoronukurangi e korihi nei, ki ngā topito e whā, ki ngā tini kārangatanga maha, kia tahuri mai ki ngā pitopito kōrero e whai ake nei. E mahara ana ki te tini, ki te mano kua takiwātia. Huri atu te pō, nau mai te ao. Ka kuikui, ka koakoa, ka rere te karere ki ngā hau e wha, ki ngā tai e ngunguru, ki ngā wi katoa o te motu, tūturu whakamaua kia tina, tina. haumi e, hui e – Tāiki e!

NIWA is committed to building effective partnerships and conducting relevant research with Māori. We are doing this through our Māori Research and Development Unit – Te Kūwaha, a team of 10 Māori researchers and scientists.



Erica Williams and Erina Watene assess eel stocks in the Whirinaki River, Murupara.

Improving Māori health

One of Te Kūwaha's projects is looking at Māori relationships with aquatic environments – how these have changed, and what have been the effects on spiritual and physical health. The aim is to find ways to improve access and revitalise aquatic environments for Māori. The project is led by Te Kūwaha in collaboration with Crop & Food Research and urban and rural Māori from Papatipu Rūnaka o Awarua of Ngāi Tahu, Bluff, and Ngāti Hokopu ki te Hokowhitu, of Ngāti Awa, Whakatāne.



Fattening tuna

Successful feeding trials in heated water have resulted in tuna (eels) of a size that would have taken more than 25 years to reach in the wild. The research was carried out in a commercial processing plant and involved three iwi (Muaūpoko, Ngāti Raukawa, and Ngāti Kahungunu), and three non-Māori commercial organisations (Levin Eel Trading Co. Ltd, Wiptec Ltd, and Fenwick-Stuart Co. Ltd). Iwi representatives working alongside factory staff and the researchers gained valuable experience in aquaculture. The ultimate goal is to maximise the return from the existing tuna fishery for both customary and commercial use.



Focus group meeting at Te Rau Aroha marae (Awarua).

Improving the treatment of wastewater

There are many unresolved issues relating to the treatment and disposal of wastewater. In a pilot dialogue project, NIWA scientists and University of Waikato staff will work with four iwi groups from Taupo (Ngāti Tūrangitukua) and Gisborne (Rongowhakaata, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, and Te Āitanga a Mahaki) where there are significant issues and significant differences in tikanga and kawa relating to wastewater treatment. The programme will also look at cost-effective models of wastewater disposal that are acceptable to iwi.

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Renewable energy for remote communities

Te Kūwaha are collaborating with two remote Māori communities (Te Roroa and Tūwharetoa) to identify how energy use can be improved and to assess the potential for developing renewable energy sources. The project has looked at energy use and future needs, including energy efficiency in homes and communal buildings (local marae). Through hui and household energy audits the team have identified where energy efficiency can be improved, and they are managing the retrofitting process. Monitoring equipment has also been installed to assess the wind, solar, wave, and hydrological resources at each site.



Te Mahau, Waihi Village.