

Koura (*Paranephrops planifrons*) in the Te Arawa Lakes

The Te Arawa lakes are an integral part of the Te Arawa people. Traditionally, these lakes provided a bountiful array of mahinga kai (food). Koura (freshwater crayfish) were an important and prized component of the harvest and today are still much prized. Predators, availability of food, and water and habitat quality are all factors that influence the distribution and abundance of koura in the Te Arawa lakes. The figure below describes our current understanding of how these factors can affect koura. At least some of the factors can be managed through catchment and/or in-lake management that maintains good water quality.

