



TE AO TŪROA

He Waka Taurua

What is the waka taurua?

**SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL
SCIENCE CHALLENGE**

Te Ao Māori Synthesis Programme:
Waka Taurua



JUNE 2024



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LEAD AUTHOR:

Kelly Ratana
Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Rangiwewehi

CO-AUTHORS:

Waiaria Rameka
Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Raukawa

Te Rerekohu Tuterangiwhiu
Ngā Puhī, Ngāruahine, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Ranginui, Tainui

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KAIĀRAHI - SYNTHESIS STRAND LEADER

Caine Taiapa - Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Pūkenga

MĀTĀPUNA - CULTURAL ADVISORY GROUP

Teina Boasa-Dean - Ngāi Tūhoe, Ātiuan

Karl Leonard - Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Te Pahipoto, Ngāti Huri

Ruiha Ruwhiu - Te Whānau a Apanui, Ngāti Awa, Ngā Puhī

Reon Tuanau - Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui

TE PUNA KŌRERO - TE AO MĀORI COLLECTIVE

T1: Awhi mai awhi atu: Enacting a kaitiakitanga-based approach to EBM

T3: Ngā tohu o te ao: Maramataka and marine management

T4: Te tāhuhu matatau: Empowering kaitiaki of Tangaroa

2.3: Indigenising the blue economy in Aotearoa

2.14: Whakaika te moana

2.15: Thinking outside the can: engineering toheroa aquaculture

2.16: A novel approach to aquaculture in Aotearoa NZ

3.1: Perceptions of risk and uncertainty

3.2: Communicating risk and uncertainty

4.1: Tangaroa Ararau: Treaty relationships and EBM

4.4: Understanding and communicating the various implications of scale for EBM

S3: Synthesis of Tangaroa phase one research

S7: Ki uta ki tai: Estuaries thresholds and values

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DESIGNED BY:

Dixie Yates-Francis -

Te Aitanga-a-Mahaaki, Rongowhakaata, Te Arawa, Ngāti Maniapoto

Matangireia Yates-Francis -

Te Aitanga-a-Mahaaki, Rongowhakaata, Te Arawa, Ngāti Maniapoto

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Nō hea te kaupapa?

Introduction

THE SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

The Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge (the challenge) is a programme of research across a decade from 2014 to 2024. Its focus is to “enhance utilisation of our marine resources within environmental and biological constraints”.

As this 10-year programme of work comes to an end, the focus is moving to collating the key learnings from across all research completed by the challenge.

FOCUS OF THE WAKA TAURUA ACTIVITY

As part of that work, the Te Ao Māori (TAM) Synthesis programme focuses on pulling together the key insights and lessons from the research within the challenge that were:

- completed within the Tangaroa theme
- were kaupapa Māori led
- worked specifically with whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori businesses.

This research and the researchers involved were collectively referred to as the Puna Kōrero.

The Waka Taurua activity focuses on the concept of waka taurua by:

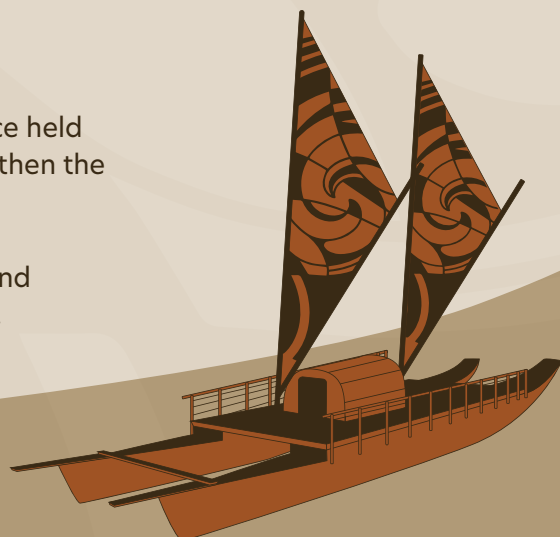
- creating more understanding of the concept
- developing the theory around how the concept works in a research context
- demonstrating examples of what the concept might look like in practice from the Te Ao Māori research completed in the challenge.

Please see the [Ruruku mai taku waka taurua](#) and [Whakarite mai taku waka rangahau](#) reports for more information.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WAKA TAURUA ACTIVITY

One key objective was to take a deeper dive into the space held by Te Ao Māori or the Waka Māori to broaden and strengthen the foundations for work moving forward.

The second key objective was to advance the theory around implementing partnerships using the Waka Taurua model.



He aha te waka taurua?

What is a waka taurua?

WAKA TAURUA AS A TRANSFERRABLE CONCEPT

Elsdon Best (1976) referred to accounts of waka taurua in his writing, stating:

“On the east coast the term taurua was applied to a temporary form of double canoe, as when two canoes were lashed together for some specific use, such as the manipulation of large seines. These seine-boats would at other times be used as two single canoes. Mr. W. Best, of Otaki, has informed us that he saw such a double canoe in use at Maketu, Bay of Plenty, about the year 1873...

Such temporary joining's of two canoes for a special purpose differ from the permanent double canoe of Polynesia, but show that a knowledge of the usage has been preserved, and utilized to a late date.”

Within this clear description is an important concept that is transferrable into approaches to working in Aotearoa's marine environment, especially the interface between knowledge systems to support and guide those approaches within our marine environment.

KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS COMING TOGETHER

Waka taurua, as opposed to waka hourua (the larger, permanently connected, double hulled voyaging canoe), were not a permanent arrangement. Waka taurua were simply two, otherwise separate, waka lashed together for an agreed overarching purpose of achieving greater benefit for the people.

The defining feature is the idea that each waka, at all other times, had its own motuhake or separateness and uniqueness apart from the taurua. This defining feature should not be overlooked.

This concept of two unique and separate waka – or knowledge systems in the challenge research – coming together over an agreed purpose, is an important one. One key element is that each waka, or knowledge system, has its own world views, beliefs, values, knowledge and practice. Each waka has equally valuable contributions to any context when they agree to lash together. Yet, importantly, they are equally as capable of functioning separately and navigating forward when not lashed together.

¹ Found in: *The Māori Canoe: an account of the various types of vessels used by the Māori of New Zealand in former times, with some description of those of the isles of the Pacific, and a brief account of the peopling of New Zealand*, by Elsdon Best (1976). A. R. Shearer, Government Printer, Wellington, New Zealand.

Waka Taurua

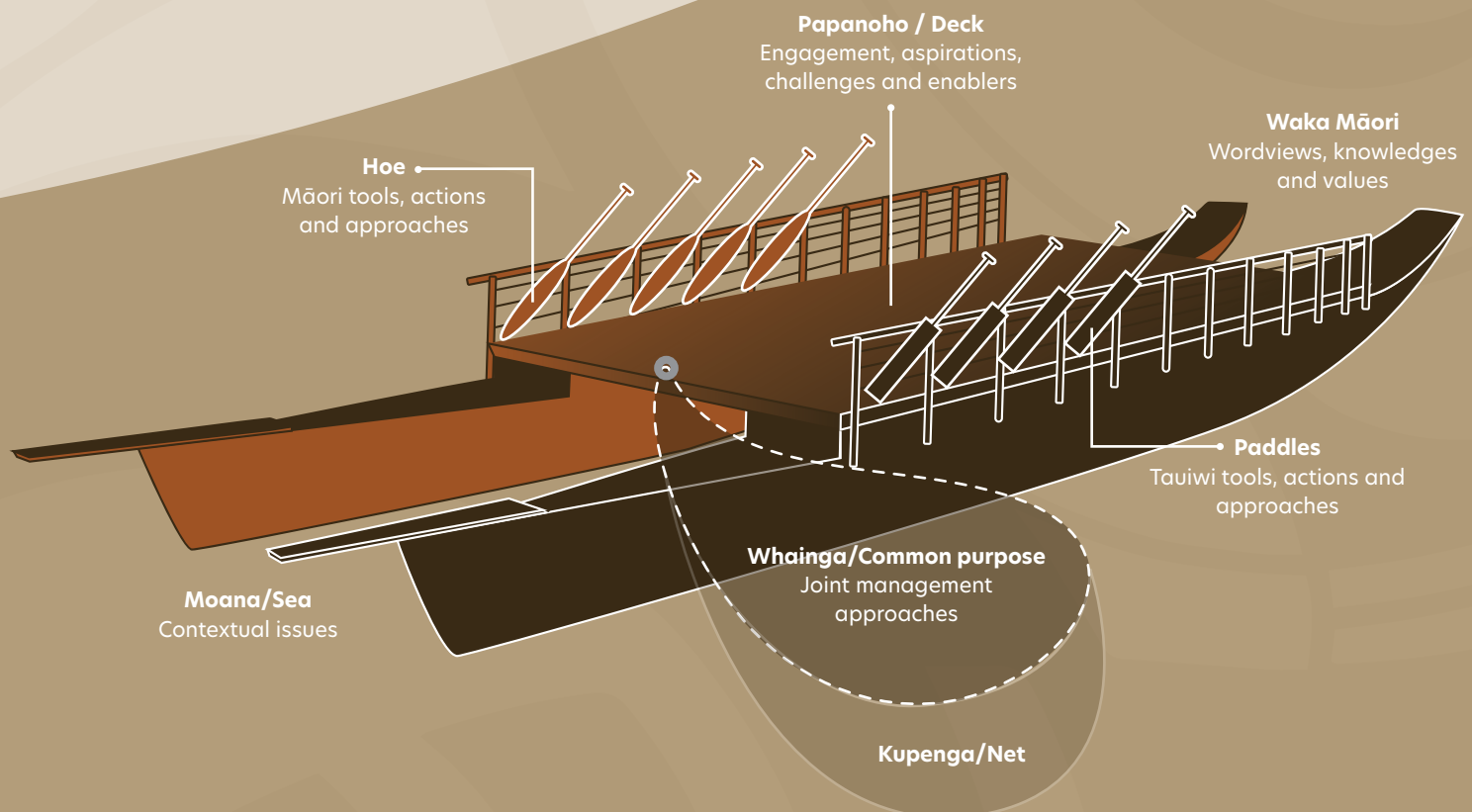
Partnership in theory

SPACE FOR DIFFERING WORLDVIEWS, VALUES, AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

In phase one (between 2004 and 2009) of the challenge, the Waka Taurua Framework² emerged as a conceptual model with the potential to help inform effective engagement with ideas around co-governance, co-management and decision-making within marine spaces.

The Waka Taurua Framework holds space for differing worldviews, values, and knowledge systems. It provides a conceptualisation for how diverse worldviews can function independently, and unite when appropriate, to achieve a common purpose without compromising the values of each waka.

² For more information please see:
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104213>



JOINT SPACE BRINGS WAKA MĀORI AND WAKA TAUWI TOGETHER

The Waka Taurua Framework was used to describe how two separate waka could come together into an arrangement where the 'papanoho' (deck between) becomes a negotiated and joint space for all participants to engage in the conversation. In this example, the 'Waka Māori' contains Māori worldviews, knowledge, values and practices. While the 'Waka Tauwi' contains worldviews, knowledge, values, and practices of broader society within Aotearoa.

This joint space also enables everyone involved to:

- centre the 'whāinga' (agreed goal or harvest) as the driver of the partnership
- grow the way they understand the marine environment, and
- highlight the different 'hoe' (paddles) available to use, such as for monitoring approaches.

In Aotearoa, bringing together the understanding and approaches of two waka aims to improve marine management, governance and decision-making.

WAKA TAURUA WITHIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM

One objective of TAM Synthesis was to increase understanding of the need for, and foundations of, the Waka Māori as separate from the waka taurua.

This ability of the two waka to be both separate or lashed together is somewhat obscured by the current systems of governance and management. Those systems rely heavily on Te Tiriti o Waitangi to guide them. Te Tiriti o Waitangi calls for equal partnership under the principles outlined within the document.

Yet, within the context of the Waka Taurua Framework we can begin to see that a default setting of Māori and the Crown being in perpetual partnership has created a scenario where waka taurua (the lashing together for an agreed overarching purpose) appears permanent. This leaves little room for the Māori waka to repair, rebuild and navigate on its own while it reclaims and develops Te Ao Māori knowledge, beliefs, values and practices.

Te Waka Māori

The Māori Waka

WIDE RANGE OF TAM COLLECTIVE RESEARCH

The TAM Synthesis programme sought to understand what key lessons and insights might broaden understanding of what the waka Māori looks like from the work completed.

Some research within the TAM Synthesis programme focused on the process of reclaiming knowledge, practice and guiding principles, to embed in policy and planning. Some research focused on approaches to innovation and management. A small amount of research explored the world of cultivation and monitoring from a predominantly waka Māori perspective. Most research focused on ways to be in a waka taurua.

WAKA MĀORI IN MARINE MANAGEMENT

When thinking about a Waka Māori in a marine management context, each iwi, hapū, whānau had their own mana moana, respectfully utilising, carefully protecting, and actively contributing to the survival of their places and, in turn, themselves as a part of that ecosystem. This was the 'waka' that existed before Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and it was continually evolving and being nurtured by each generation.

CONCEPT OF TE AO TŪROA TO HELP EXPLORE WAKA MĀORI

Throughout the TAM Synthesis programme, our team developed theory around the concept of Te Ao Tūroa as an exploration of a Waka Māori to help guide in marine management, governance and decision-making.

The concept of Te Ao Tūroa speaks to the idea that mauri, whakapapa and mana are the core principles and integrity markers guiding our waka. Te Ao Tūroa also identifies that people need:

- intact natural spaces – wao atua – to thrive
- intergenerational knowledge – wao tūpuna – to guide them
- aligned practices – wao tāngata – to enact to ensure their survival.

For more information on this concept, please see the [He Taura Here report](#).

Te Ao Tūroa points to a time where each whānau, hapū, and iwi had their own mana motuhake – a special uniqueness, with their own knowledge and practices embedded in their own places.

Me ahu pēhea

Where to from this report

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE WAKA TAURUA ACTIVITY

This is the first of three reports generated from the Waka Taurua activity within the TAM Synthesis programme.

Rūruku mai taku waka taurua, the second report:

- explores the various examples of waka taurua in practice within the Sustainable Seas challenge research, and
- dives into what the Puna Kōrero described as success factors for their waka taurua.

Whakariterite mai taku waka rangahau, the third report examines the collective learnings and insights from the Puna Kōrero that can that can signpost journeys forward in the field of research:

- as separate waka preparing to be in a taurua, and
- as a waka taurua lashed together to achieve greater benefit for communities.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT TE AO TŪROA

The concepts of both mana motuhake and te ao tūroa are broad-ranging and understood across Te Ao Māori in different ways.

Within the context of TAM Synthesis, the team has explored these concepts, alongside mauri and whakapapa as the foundations for a thriving Waka Māori.

To learn more about these concepts and explore some of the many facets of their understanding and application, please watch the Te Ao Tūroa podcast series that feature our mātāpuna (cultural advisory group).





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