

The Moana project's iwi partner Whakatōhea is developing a Moana Plan, a marine and coastal plan outlining Whakatōhea values, goals and aspirations for their rohe moana.

Approximately 17,000 people affiliate to Whakatōhea. The tribal area is situated in the eastern Bay of Plenty – Te Moana-a-Toi, and iwi assets are administered by the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board.



*The tribal territory of Te Whakatōhea is situated in the eastern Bay of Plenty – Te Moana-a-Toi. The turquoise line indicates Te Whakatōhea's area of interest; the green rectangles indicate the location of Te Whakatōhea's present and future aquaculture management areas; and the red dots indicate marae locations within the tribal territory.*

Te Whakatōhea have multiple interests in the marine and coastal area and it is important these are recognised in the governance, management and operations of activities in the tribal territory. These interests include firstly, Te Whakatōhea's kaitiaki rights and responsibilities in the marine area of interest, including kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga rights recognised through the Resource Management Act, followed by the more

specific recognised Marine Customary Title and Protected Customary Rights provided through the Marine and Coastal Area Act.

Secondly, Te Whakatōhea managing interests in their rohe moana, including customary and commercial fisheries; and developing the first open ocean aquaculture mussel farm in the world operated by Whakatōhea Mussels Ōpōtiki Limited.

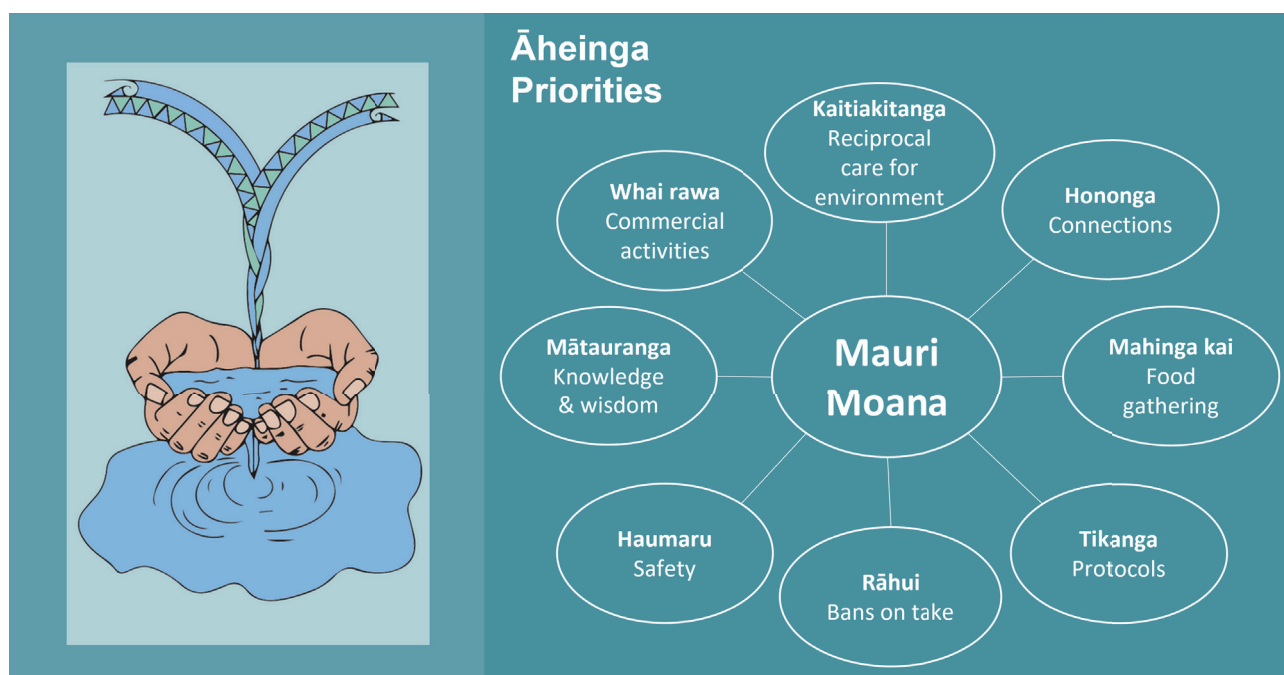


Lastly, Te Whakatōhea are in the process of Treaty grievance settlement, and a large component of the settlement is marine based, including 5000 ha of aquaculture management area (AMA), and a fund to support resource consenting aquaculture development in this AMA. This redress has leveraged further resources from the Crown to build supporting infrastructure in the region through the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development and the proposed Ōpōtiki Marine Precinct.

The Whakatōhea Moana Plan is unique as it takes its starting point in the paterere 'Te Tapu o Muriwai', a traditional chant about the life and times of Whakatōhea's eponymous ancestress Muriwai which has been handed down through generations and describes Whakatōhea's connections to Te-Moana-a-Toi.

Maruhia atu i te Moana o Te Whakatōhea, The Whakatōhea Moana Plan aims to highlight a range of activities which will maintain or enhance the mauri of the Whakatōhea moana. Starting with the Whakatōhea kaitiaki structure, the plan moves on to identify Whakatōhea Ūara (values and interests) and Raruraru (concerns). Based on these, the Moana Plan identifies Āheinga (priorities) which guide future actions and policies.

Hononga, or connections, are specifically mentioned and also underlie many of the other āheinga, because it is through Whakatōhea connections with their rohe moana that mātauranga, kaitiakitanga, and tikanga have developed and are practiced.



Whakatōhea Moana Plan Āheinga or priorities. Maruhia mai image: Michelle Midgely Paruru.