

Specific Freshwater Objectives for Fish and Mahinga Kai

These freshwater objectives apply to all the identified water body categories. Particular emphasis is placed upon the extensive nature and important characteristics of small streams, wetlands and backwaters in providing healthy fish habitat and the conditions for mahinga kai species, places and activities to thrive.

Freshwater objectives for rivers

- Protection and restoration of significant indigenous ecosystems including habitat (of lakes and rivers) for threatened/at risk species, migratory fish and inanga spawning (link to Schedule F) Note- existing in the pNRP
- Protect and restore Trout fishery and spawning (areas in Schedule I) Note - existing in the pNRP
- Maintain 90% habitat space at MALF for torrent fish
- Indigenous fish and taonga species are able to access all tributaries of the Ruamāhanga system from the coast and lowland wetlands up to and including first order streams throughout the catchment to complete their life cycle.
- The fish habitat has diverse natural characteristics (e.g. riffles, pools, runs, backwaters, wetlands) required for abundant and healthy indigenous fauna and taonga species.
- Watercress is abundant and healthy, safe to eat and free from spray and other contaminants.
- Marae and mana whenua urban communities have access to abundant and healthy mahinga kai species that are safe to eat and are available in quantities that enable sustainable harvest and support the manaakitanga of Wairarapa marae communities.
- Mauri of waterbodies is enhanced by restoring ecological habitats e.g. riparian planting, improving water quality, healthy and abundant mahinga kai is readily available.
- Threatened fish species and their habitat are recovering and are enhanced to show increase in new populations.
- Removal of pest fish.
- Restore habitats closer to the sea first to better protect indigenous fish.

Freshwater objectives for Wairarapa Moana and Onoke

- Exotic fish populations are at a level where they are not restricting the vitality of indigenous fish populations and the ability of mana whenua to undertake mahinga kai harvest.
- All age classes of kakahi are present indicative of a sustainable population.

- Black flounder and other salt water species are abundant.
- Tuna fishery is restored.
- Onoke mouth is managed in a way (calendar) that meets the needs of migratory (diadromous) fish species and mahinga kai harvest.
- Restore native fish habitat for indigenous fish.

Specific fish species and places

- Wetlands are restored and increased to support thriving mudfish, inanga spawning and tuna populations.
- Western rivers are managed to support longfin tuna and deep pool habitat. Torrent fish are abundant in riffles.
- In Eastern rivers sediment is reduced and habitat increased to enable tuna to thrive.
- Western lowland rivers including the main stem Ruamāhanga have increased habitat to enable inanga spawning, deep pools for tuna and riffles for torrent fish to thrive.
- Urban streams are protected from development and piping to support tuna, kokopu and redfin bully.

Additional (to those in the PNRP) outstanding places

Mahinga kai are abundant and healthy in the following outstanding water bodies of significance to Wairarapa marae, mana whenua and the wider Wairarapa community:

- Makoura Stream
- Kuripuni Stream
- Papawai Stream
- Mangarara Stream
- Carters Reserve
- Turanganui River
- Tauanui River

Education objective for fish

- To improve information and understanding of indigenous fish and mahinga kai, including why they are important in the whaitua.