

Stemming the colonial environmental tide



The report focuses on analysing ecosystem-based management (EBM) through the incorporation of mātauranga and tikanga Māori and shared concurrent governance jurisdiction through Treaty of Waitangi partnerships over the marine and coastal seascape.

Stemming the colonial environmental tide: shared Māori governance jurisdiction and ecosystem-based management over the marine and coastal seascape in Aotearoa New Zealand – possible ways forward.

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sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz



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National Science Challenges

SUSTAINABLE SEAS

Ko ngā moana whakauka

Authentic Crown-Māori co-governance and EBM

Stemming the colonial environmental tide supports an Aotearoa New Zealand legal and environmental context that fundamentally acknowledges mātauranga and tikanga Māori law and shared co-governance jurisdiction over the ocean through 7 EBM principles, developed by Sustainable Seas Science Challenge.



1

Human activities

Acknowledges humans as ecosystem components with multiple values.

Given that Māori consider themselves related to all living things through whakapapa, they express whānaungatanga with their surrounding environment in the form of kaitiaki relationships. Whakapapa creates an intimate link between relations, a link that extends to the mana of a person or a place. Any diminution in the mana of a place, will result in a diminution of an individual's mana through shared whakapapa.

[p74]



2

Tailored

Is place and time-specific, recognising/ understanding the ecosystem as a whole in all its ecological complexities and connectedness, and addressing cumulative and multiple stressors.

Indigenous cultures themselves adhere to EBM sustainability principles such as:

- holistic connections and relationships within ecosystems
- cumulative impacts affect marine welfare
- the natural structure and function of ecosystems and their productivity
- incorporate human use and values of ecosystems in managing the resource
- recognise that ecosystems are dynamic and constantly changing
- are based on a shared vision of all key participants; and
- are based on scientific Indigenous knowledge, adopted by continual learning and monitoring.

[p499]



3

Knowledge-based

Has clear goals and objectives based on knowledge.

A 'taonga test' ... for 'stewardship jurisdiction' ... over coastal and marine areas: in assessing whether a waterway was a taonga to any particular group, the [Waitangi] Tribunal took into account the intensity of the Māori association with the waterway including originating ancestral relationship and an ongoing cultural and spiritual relationship with the waterway; the exercising of control and authority [jurisdiction] over the resources, and the fulfilment of obligations to conserve, nurture and protect the waterway.²

[p64]

² Waitangi Tribunal, *The Stage 1 Report on the National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources Claim (Wai 2358, 2012)* at 51.



4

Sustainability

Views long-term sustainability as a fundamental value, in particular maintaining values and uses for future generations.

Embedded in tikanga Māori is a concept that transcends the right to use. It is the responsibility to so use and to maintain to the fullest practicable extent pure, clean coastal marine regimes. Responsibility is a concept that is an incident of mana whakahaere tōtika that requires a balancing of the benefits of ownership with the responsibilities of ownership. It is an intergenerational responsibility, which is owed to one's tūpuna (forebears) and one's mokopuna (descendants).

[p58]



5

Adapts

Includes adaptive management, appropriate monitoring and acknowledgement of uncertainty.

The ability to adjust while maintaining the group's cultural uniqueness, values and customary norms is crucial for appropriately acknowledging and reconciling traditional Māori mana whakahaere tōtika jurisdiction in the 21st century.

[p73]



6

Collaborative decision-making

Includes collaborative and participatory management throughout the whole process, considering all values and involving all interested parties from agencies and iwi to industries, whānau, hapū and local communities.

In the Canadian Great Bear Initiative context, when we change the dial from a top-down approach to engagement with First Nations and fisheries access, to a focus on the co-development, co-design, and co-delivery of resource management, the result is a move towards self-determination, and real, sustainable prosperity for Canada's First Nations.¹

[p401]

¹ 'Government of Canada signs historic reconciliation agreement with B.C Coastal First Nations' in CFN-GBI website online at: <https://coastalfirstnations.ca/government-of-canada-signs-historic-reconciliation-agreement-with-b-c-coastal-first-nations> (Accessed May-2020).



7

Co-governance

A co-governance and co-design structure that recognises the Māori Tiriti o Waitangi constitutional relationship and mana whenua at all levels together with the guiding principles of mauri, whakapapa, kaitiakitanga, mātauranga-a-whānau, mātauranga-a-hapū, and mātauranga-a-iwi.

Māori mana whakahaere tōtika - governance jurisdiction - today could include the shared right, relationship and responsibility of Māori communities with local authorities to maintain a degree of law and order within their respective tribal rohe (territories) and to resolve disputes between tribal citizens and others which could include some type of adjudicatory authority within the community for both criminal actions such as breach of rāhui, and civil disputes over marine resources such as poaching.

[p47]