



NPKW March Update



Rā Maara Rimurapa

12th March 2022



In October 2021, the Kelp Gardeners project was to be integrated into Phase Two of the Waiheke Marine Project, and adopted by Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke. Ngāti Pāoa ki Waiheke is actively working to create opportunities for Ngāti Pāoa to learn, explore, and connect with the Waiheke marine environment, and lead the regeneration and protection efforts that are happening around our shores.

It was important that the whanau and hapu ō Ngāti Pāoa had an opportunity to experience the Kelp Gardner project first hand. Rā Maara Rimurapa was a day where whanau could come get in the water, and see for themselves the impact of overly abundant kina on our coast line. And take part in the regenerative action of Kelp Gardening. We took whānau out snorkelling for kina and kayaking over the Kelp Garden. For several rangatahi, the experience was particularly awesome as they had only recently learnt how to snorkel thanks to support through our Youth Snorkle Programme that was held over the summer. The day continued with lunch and waananga at nearby McKenzie Reserve.



As the kina were being opened, there was a lot of conversation about different techniques to opening them, how our kaumatua used to enjoy them, about how certain signs on the whenua used to signal what was happening what was happening in the moana, how these signs have changed over the years due to the degradation of our environment and climate change, and, about some of the different ways we could go about helping to re-balance our kina populations and regenerate our near shore reef systems. Now that some of the whanau whanui have been able to experience the Kelp gardeners first hand, there will be bigger and deeper perspectives to draw on when we wānanga on the next phase of the Kelp Gardeners towards the end of April.



Dive Training Programme



March - May

Since the Future Search in 2020 and particularly since April 2021 there have been active discussions about regeneration projects that the WMP can catalyse and support. Examples are the regeneration of kōura, kelp, kina, kūtai, paua and the near shore reef ecosystems generally. All of these regeneration projects will have large elements of underwater activities that are accessible only by snorkelling or scuba diving.

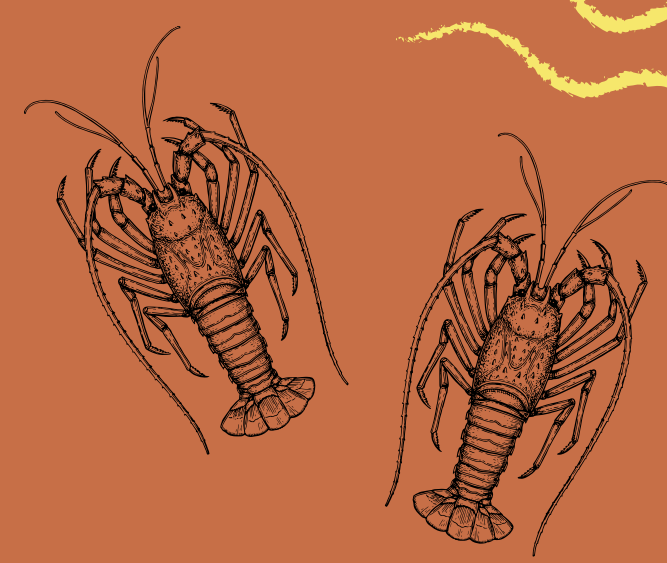
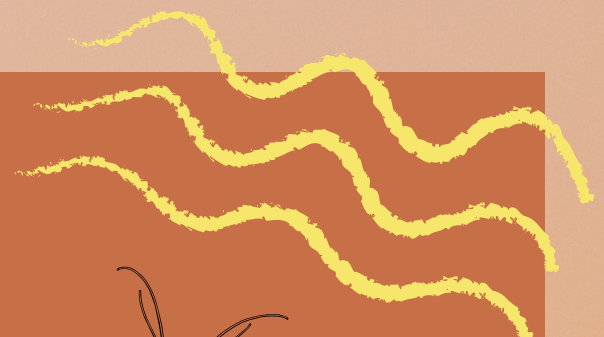
The first kōura dive survey in June 2021 demonstrated that there is a huge interest in the Auckland diving community to contribute to regeneration projects via volunteer dive time. This dive survey also demonstrated that the majority of divers came from off island and few if any were Māori or mana whenua.

With some of the WMP focus points being the Waiheke Way and commitment to Te Tiriti partnership, it behoves the WMP to take steps to build the diving capabilities and capacity of mana whenua and Waiheke locals. Improved diving abilities will then enable on-island data collection, collation, monitoring and evidence based decision making for marine care actions.

As a result of this, the Scuba Dive Training programme was created and has enabled 25 mana whenua and locals to learn how to scuba dive or get their tickets refreshed.

Mana Whenua*: Local	Māori: Tauiwī
12:13	15:10
Wahine: Tane	New Tix: Refresher
12:13	20:5
* 3 MW live on island	

2nd Annual Kōura Survey



Coming Soon! - May/June

Preparations for the 2nd annual Kōura Survey is under way!!

The purpose of the survey is to gauge the abundance and distribution of Kōura around Waiheke in order to support Rāhui longevity with reliable data, and help understand the best habitat for potential kōura relocation. This will be done through a series of dives held across May and June. Teams of volunteer scuba divers will go out and count the number of Kōura in random transects around the motu (island), and record their observations along the way.

All though this is a wider WMP driven project, NPKW are supporting it in order to help ensure mana whenua and mataawaka participation. Further support is given through Kaimahi support in coordinating the early administrative stages. A Kōura Kaimahi (or Dive Survey Coordinator) has now been hired to see the Kōura Survey through to the end of the project, with mentorship from Kelly Tarlton's Marinlife Trust. The new coordinator is a local taiohi, who will be a great new addition to the team.