

Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura

Kaikoura Coastal Marine Guardians



Who Are Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura?

We are a group of people standing for local leadership about the use and protection of our marine environment. Our group is made up of recreational and commercial fishers, those with an interest in environmental issues and members of Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, with support and advice from relevant government departments and Ministries and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. We have come together to develop a management strategy for our coast. The strategy is a korowai (cloak) for Te Tai o Marokura and we are weaving that korowai.

Our vision is a future where the moana (sea) of Kaikōura is richer and healthier. We want it to be used sustainably, providing for the needs of present and future generations. In this vision, people will interact with the sea in ways that care for its mauri (life force). People's activity will be managed to respect the natural connections between living and physical elements and sustain the sea's dynamic ecological balance.

We operate as an incorporated society with the assistance of an independent facilitator. All policy decisions are made by local Kaikōura residents, advised by professional agency support and advisory members.

Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura literally means the cloak of Te Tai o Marokura. Culturally it means to lay the cloak or mantle of Ngāti Kurī over Te Tai o Marokura, caring for the seas around Kaikōura.

What is Te Tai o Marokura?

Te Tai o Marokura is the realm of Tangaroa, god of the sea. Tangaroa was the first husband of Papatuanuku (the Earth Mother) before she wed Ranginui (the Sky Father). The fishing harbours and sheltered coastal areas of the eastern coastline of Te Waipounamu were created by Tuterakiwhanoa. He was sent by his grandfather Ranginui to enable human occupation of the lands of Te Waka o Aoraki. These are the lands of Te Waipounamu that formed when the waka navigated by Ranginui's sons ran aground on a hidden reef and turned to stone and earth.

Te Tai o Marokura is an integral part of Ngāti Kurī history and cultural identity. The immense importance of the area historically, culturally and spiritually is as dynamic as its geography and its life forms that depend on it. This is acknowledged in the law as a recorded statement of the relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the Kaikōura coast.

Why Are We Doing This?

We have watched our coast being abused and uncared for, not just by visitors but also by some locals, and we wanted to do something about it. We want our community to be able to enjoy the bounty of Tangaroa and to make sure that bounty is still there for us and our children who come after us.

