



Te Hunga Hika ahi Hapori - Community Action Coordinator - Role description

Purpose: Increase awareness and facilitate community effort to reduce catfish numbers.

The Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes are a tāonga to the hapū and iwi of Te Arawa and highly valued by the community of Rotorua.

The restoration of the Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes has been a programme of national and international interest for a decade and is a partnership between the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes Council.

The vision for the Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes is

E tiakina ana, e manaakitia ana hoki nga rota o te rohe o Te Arawa hei painga mo tatau me ngā whakatipuranga e ara mai nei, a, me te aro ana ki te hononga tuku iho o Te Arawa ki o ratau rota.

The lakes of the Rotorua district and their catchments are preserved and protected for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes.

One of the most significant emerging issues for the Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes is the establishment of a Catfish population in Lake Rotoiti. This pest fish species will have significant impact on the mauri of Lake Rotoiti, in particular on koura and potentially water quality. There is also a threat to Lake Rotorua, linked via the Ohau Channel and to the Kaituna River, downstream of Lake Rotoiti.

Lake Rotoiti is of particular significance to the hapū and iwi of Ngati Pikiao and Ngati Makino and there are a number of marae and papa kainga around the lake. The hapū and marae of Ngati Pikiao and Ngati Makino play an active role in their environment and fulfil their role as Hungatiaki in a variety of ways.

The Lakes Water Quality Society and the communities living in Lake Rotoiti are equally active with the Lakes Community Board and Residents and Ratepayer groups all wanting see this issue managed and are offering a high level of support and offers of participation.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust acknowledges the desire of hapū and iwi and community to engage in the response to this significant issue and is establishing a Community Action Coordinator to support a control project. This role will be based at the Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

The focus of the Te Hunga Hika ahi – Hapori (Community Action Coordinator) is to:

- Recruit , motivate and support volunteers to net and count catfish
- Engage with marae/hapū and community groups to recruit volunteers
- Deliver community action activities with the volunteer effort to reduce catfish numbers
- Working with technical experts, design and coordinator volunteer training (equipment use, H&S)
- Working with BOPRC and TALT to ensure volunteers are resourced and supported
- Prepare and obtain all needed permits and consents to support volunteer operations (DOC, F&G, and Te Arawa)
- Monitor H&S, permit and consent conditions and be responsible for all required reporting
- Liaise (or attend as member) with “Catfish TAG” to transfer information on netting operations and opportunities to trial new methodologies
- Support advocacy and engagement programme

Skill requirements and attributes:

- Experience leading programmes of action and engagement with hapū/iwi and communities
- Good understanding of local Iwi and Hapū and Te Arawa Reo and Tikanga
- Good understanding of community around the Te Arawa Lakes
- Strong project management skills
- Understanding of regulatory environment
- Technology transfer / adult educator skills and experience
- Health and Safety planning and implementation
- Good social, cultural and political awareness

Key relationships:

- Catfish Project Steering Group
- Project Ambassadors
- Marae and Hapū around Lake Rotoiti, Lake Rotorua and Te Maru o Kaituna
- Te Arawa Lakes Trust
- Lake Water Quality Society
- Lakes Community Board and in particular Lake Rotoiti Residents
- BOPRC Biosecurity Team
- Waikato University
- NIWA
- DOC

Out of Scope:

- Research programme
- Targeted control work
- Targeted surveillance programme
- Design and implementation of Advocacy programme
- Development of data collection/management App's