

Tuna (Eels) and Kanakana (Lamprey) - Bylaws Proposed for Mataura River Mātaitai Reserve, Southland

- 1 The Mataura River Mātaitai Reserve (the Mātaitai Reserve) covers 10km of the Mataura River (map attached) in the vicinity of the Mataura Falls, and came into effect on 12 August 2005. The area is noted for its native fish populations and is an especially important place of mahinga kai (food gathering) for tuna (eels) and kanakana (lamprey). The area is also important for trout fishing. The Mātaitai Reserve does not affect trout fishing (as it is not managed under the Fisheries Act 1996).
- 2 The Mātaitai Reserve's management plan aims to "maintain a healthy fishery, managed appropriately for the environment and consistent with the economic, cultural and social interests of all".
- 3 The Hokonui Runanga and the Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki for the Mātaitai Reserve are concerned about the sustainability of tuna and kanakana within the Mātaitai Reserve. The Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki therefore proposes bylaws to close the Mātaitai Reserve to the taking of tuna and kanakana and prohibit the use of fyke nets (see below).
- 4 A research programme is being undertaken which will continue alongside the bylaws to increase knowledge and understanding about the tuna and kanakana stocks in the Mataura River. This in turn will be used improve management of tuna and kanakana.

Bylaws proposed by the Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki for the Mataura River Mātaitai Reserve:

- (1) No person may –
 - (a) Take any of the following species within the Mataura River Mātaitai Reserve; or
 - (b) Possess any of the following species within that area; or
 - (c) Possess any of the following species taken from within that area:
 - Lamprey (*Geotria australis*)
 - Shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*)
 - Longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*)
- (2) No person may use, set or possess any fyke net within the Mataura River Mātaitai Reserve.