

KAITIAKITANGA WORKSHEET

[Adapted from Tiaki Moana – Looking after our marine environment by Karl Wixon]

Significance of kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga is the idea of guardianship and is about our responsibility to care for the environment. Kaitiakitanga is a way of acting and thinking that is rooted in te ao Māori [the Māori world] but is significant for all New Zealanders.

Kaitiakitanga is also significant for the Marine Stewardship Council who work internationally as guardian of the ocean as they attempt to put an end to unsustainable fishing practices. The Marine Stewardship Council's vision is for the world's oceans to be teeming with life, and kai moana [seafood] supplies that are safeguarded for this and future generations.

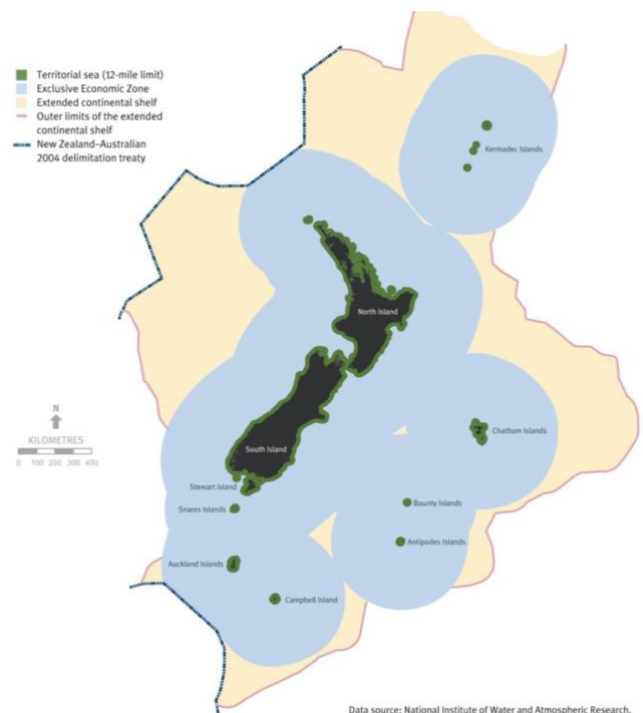
Toitu te marae a Tane, Toitu te marae a Tangaroa, Toitu te iwi'
If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive.

This whakataukī or proverb conveys principles we should all subscribe to as kaitiaki. In Aotearoa New Zealand, Kaitiakitanga is an important part of our fisheries management story. We are an island nation where many of us live very close to the sea. Fishing is significant for all New Zealanders as legend tells us that our country began from fishing – when Maui fished up the north island from the sea.


Responsibility

But we are not just gatherers or fishers. When Maui fished up the North Island there came with this a sense of care and responsibility [kaitiaki] – something that remains today. As kaitiaki [guardians] it is our responsibility to ensure the well-being of our ocean.

We are responsible for a very large part of the ocean (the blue area in Map 1).



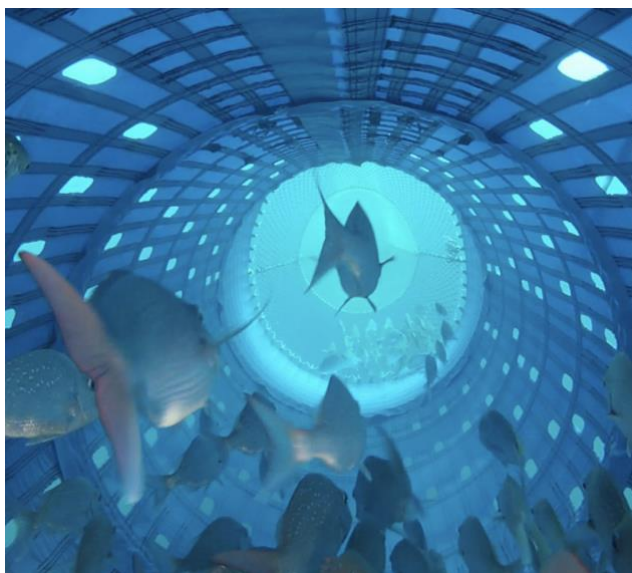
Map 1: Aotearoa New Zealand waters (EEZ in blue)



And our fishing industry is a big part of our economy. New Zealand's marine fisheries waters (the blue area in the map which includes Exclusive Economic Zone and territorial sea) measures 4.4m km², and is the world's **fourth largest**, making it an ocean territory 'superpower'. New Zealand's **15,134 km long coastline** is the ninth longest in the world.

World leaders

As a country we have a 'kaitiaki way' of doing things and an adventurous and creative 'can do' spirit. This means we are often world leaders in finding clever ways to protect our fisheries while still ensuring we get good value from them. One example of this is the world



Source: [Tiaki.com](https://www.tiaki.com)

leading New Zealand's Quota Management System introduced in 1986 to address what was an unsustainable catch. Many consider the Quota Management System (QMS) as a world leading system of fisheries management. We have also created new fishing techniques such as the Tiaki or Precision Seafood Harvesting (PSH) method to help ensure our fishing is sustainable long term (see Topic 4). This method allows fish to be landed live and helps undersize fish and bycatch to swim free from the net.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the following web pages to find out more about Kaitiakitanga:

- Te Ara Encyclopaedia webpage (in English) [Understanding Kaitiakitanga](#)
- Te Ara Encyclopaedia webpage (in te reo Māori) [Te whai māramatanga mō te kaitiakitanga](#)



QUESTIONS

How well did you read?

Multiple choice

Circle the correct answer

1. Kaitiakitanga is the idea of guardianship and is about our _____ to care for the environment.

- (a) Inability
- (b) Rights
- (c) Ability
- (d) Responsibility

2. When _____ fished up the North Island there came with this a sense of care and responsibility [kaitiaki] – something that remains today.

- (a) Maui
- (b) Tangaroa
- (c) Tāne
- (d) Papatuānuku

3. We are often world leaders in finding clever ways to protect our fisheries while still ensuring we get good _____ from them.

- (a) Sizes
- (b) Value
- (c) Numbers
- (d) Instability

4. Many consider the Quota Management System (QMS) as a _____ system of fisheries management.

- (a) Failure
- (b) World leading
- (c) Fancy new
- (d) Average

5. The new Aotearoa New Zealand fishing technique Tiaki or Precision Seafood Harvesting (PSH) method allows fish to be landed live and helps undersize fish and bycatch to _____ the net.

- (a) Swim free from
- (b) Get caught in
- (c) Die rapidly in
- (d) Be damaged by



FOR TEACHERS

Answers

1 (d); 2 (a); 3 (b); 4 (b); 5 (a)