

Ngāti Ruanui

The resources found within Te Moananui a Kupe since time immemorial, provided the people of Ngāti Ruanui with a constant supply of food resources. The hidden reefs provided kōura, pāua, kina, pupu, papaka, pipi, tuatua, and many other reef inhabitants. Hapuka, moki, kanae, mako, and patiki swim feely between the many reefs that can be found stretching out into the spiritual waters of Te Moananui a Kupe and along the Ngāti Ruanui coastline.

Names such as Rangatapu, Ohawe, Tokotoko, Waihi, Waukena, Tangaahoe, Manawapou, Taumaha, Manutahi, Pipiri, Kaikura, Whitikau, Kenepuru, Te Pou a Turi, Rangitaawhi and Whenuakura denote the whereabouts of either a fishing ground or a reef.

All along the shoreline from Rangatapu to Whenuakura food can be gathered depending on the tides, weather and time of year.

Tragedies of the sea are also linked to these reefs. Ngāti Ruanui oral history records the sinking off Tāngāhoe of a Chinese trade ship that had just been loaded with a cargo of flax. When the bodies were recovered and brought to shore none of them had any eyes. The people of Ngāti Hine believe that they did something wrong and in turn were punished by the taniwha named Toi, kaitiaki of the fishing reefs and grounds who is renowned to this day for eating the eyes of his victims

Area	Commentary	Sites of significance to Māori within the CMA		Values associated with sites	Map reference
		TRC Number	Description		
Tāngāhoe River	<p>The Tāngāhoe River has been a major supply of food and water resources to its people both prior to and since the arrival of the Aotea Waka. The valley like the rest of the southern lands was a fertile paradise and because of the mild temperatures, promoted lush vegetation that was checked only by the occasional equinoctial weather patterns. Birds such as the manunui, kereru, pīngao, pukeko, tiwaiwaka, kahu, kakapo, kiwi, korimako, miromiro and the pipiwharauora flourished in the berry filled trees, like the koromiko, kohia, hinau, pipiriri, mamaku, and Rewarewa at the side of the eel, and kōura filled creeks. Fish such as the piharau, kōkopu, tunaheke, patiki, and shellfish were abundant in the waters and on the reefs at the mouth of the river.</p> <p>A version of the origin of the name Tāngāhoe is because of an incident that occurred, whereby the steering oar was lost from a large deep sea fishing waka as it attempted to return to the tauranga waka and the comment made was made that "if there were two steering oars like that of the Aotea waka then its flight to its resting place would remain true".</p>	F1	Tāngāhoe River	Mahinga kai	Map Link Map 32

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Pātea River	<p>The full name of the river is "Pātea nui a Turi". It was named by Turi on his arrival overland after leaving the Aotea Waka at Kawhia. Since the arrival the river has played an important part in the lifestyles of the Aotea people. Turi Ariki at Te Pou a Turi laid claim to the surrounding territory and the river which until then had been known as Te Awanui o Taikehu, as belonging to him and his descendants. Upon completing the respective rituals to protect the newly gained lands from unwanted entities he then proceeded to spiritually purify the rest of the area. The river was traversed and spiritual kaitiaki sown in every location that was to become significant to the Aotea people along the total length of the river. These rituals continued to the source of the river (named Whakapou Karakia) on the mountain. It was at this locality upon the mountain that the final karakia of protection was done to unite all the kaitiaki as one in protection of the waters and resources pertaining to the river hence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whaka: to do • Pou: pillar of strength • Karakia: invocation. 	F2	Pātea River	Mahinga kai	Map Link Map 35
Whenuakura River	<p>The name of this river originated during the time that Turi Arikinui, Kaihoutu of the waka tipua Aotea and his wife Rongorongō Tapaairu, who lived with their families between the two rivers, Pātea nui a Turi and Whenuakura. Turi was the Ariki (Rangatira of the highest rank) of the Aotea waka.</p> <p>Like the Tāngāhoe River, this river provided the people of the Aotea waka and later the people of NgātiHine and NgātiTupito with all the resources of life they required to survive.</p>	F3	Whenuakura River	Mahinga kai	Map Link Map 36