

Taonga Beneath the Tide

Surveying pāua populations, mahinga kai species, and rocky reef habitats across Waitutu survey sites



Why does it matter?

As taonga, pāua are an important kaimoana for Māori, linked to food, manaakitanga, and the continuation of customary practices.

Surveys conducted in 2010, 2016, and 2026 provide a way to track change over time.



What does this study involve ?

Resurveying pāua and key mahinga kai species across the Waitutu mātaihai.

FOCUS SPECIES

- Blackfoot pāua (*Haliotis iris*)
- Yellow-foot pāua (*Haliotis australis*)
- *Cookia sulcata*, kōura and kina.

Study Hypothesis

Pāua populations within the Waitutu mātaihai are expected to show greater abundance and larger mean shell sizes than those at the external control site. Abundance, size, and density may also have increased since the 2010 and 2016 surveys.

DID YOU KNOW?

The scientific name for the genus, *Haliotis*, means "sea ear," referring to the flattened, ear-shaped shell



Waitutu Team !



Mereana Martin, PGDip Marine Science Candidate