

# Essential Freshwater

*NPS-FM – vision setting and  
value identification*

*Webinar 5  
Ministry for the Environment, 18 November 2020*





Mana Atua – Mana Tangata – Mana Whenua

# Te Mana o te Wai

The health of our Wai: The health of our Nation

Incorporated into Policy



1

**The first**  
is to the water,  
to protect its health and  
its mauri

2

**The second**  
is providing for  
essential human health  
needs such as drinking  
water

3

**The third**  
is for other consumption  
provided that such use does  
not adversely impact the  
mauri of freshwater

## NGĀ RITENGA

Te Tiriti o  
Waitangi te  
tāhuhu o te  
Kaupapa o te wai

Te Mana o te wai  
– Te Mauri o te  
wai

Te Mana  
Motuhake o ia  
wai o ia iwi o ia  
hapū ki te wai

Te Kaitiakitanga  
o ngā hapū me  
ngā iwi ki te wai

Te Mana  
Whakahaere o  
ngā hapū me  
ngā iwi ki te wai



- Mana whakahaere
- Kaitiakitanga
- Manaakitanga
- Governance
- Stewardship
- Care, respect



- Iwi/Hapū/Māori Landowners/Whānau/Hapori
- Crown / Community  
Central & local governance



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# Te Mana o te Wai

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## Te Mana o te Wai

The health of our Wai: The health of our Nation

OBLIGATION

1

The first is to the water, to protect its health and its mauri

2

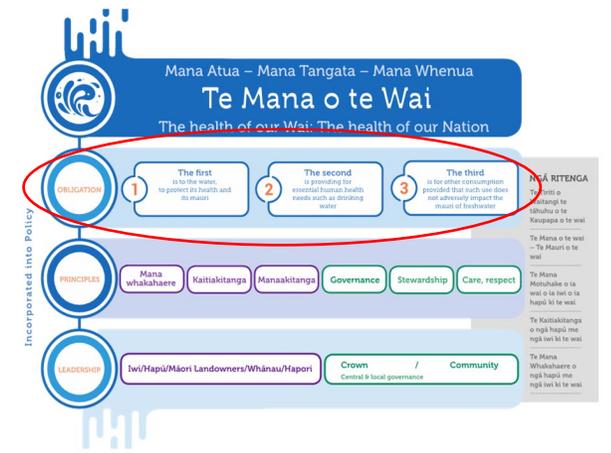
The second is providing for essential human health needs such as drinking water

3

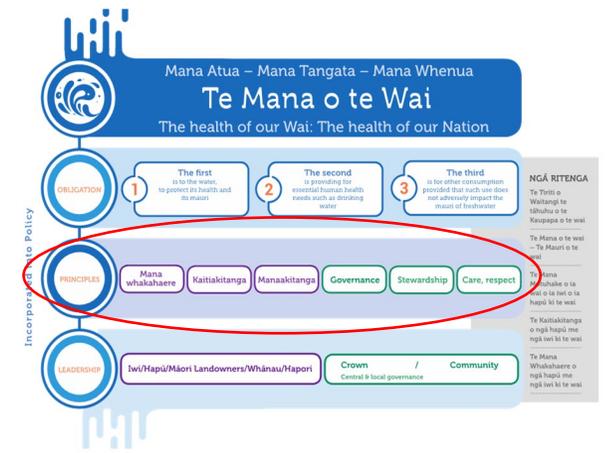
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NGĀ RITENGA

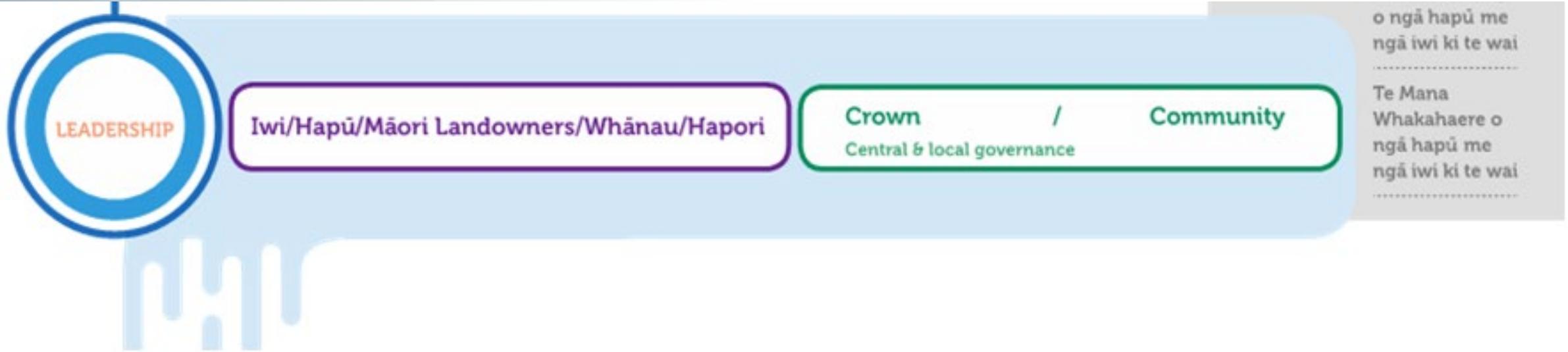
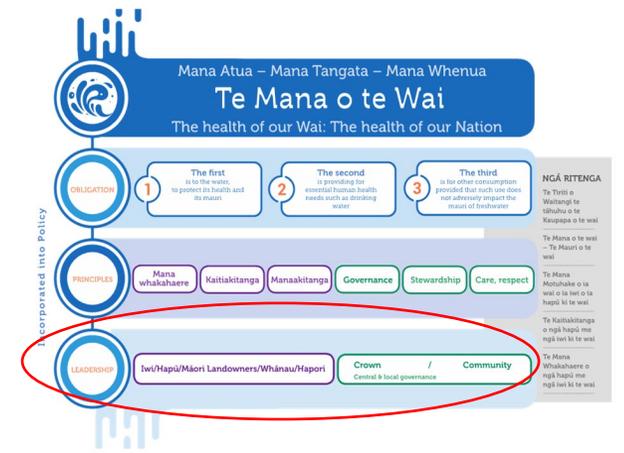
Te Tiriti o Waitangi te tāhuhu o te Kaupapa o te wai



# Te Mana o te Wai



# Te Mana o te Wai



# *Te Mana o te Wai – what does this mean for regional councils?*





# *Te Mana o te Wai: Hierarchy of obligations*

The first priority is to protect the health and wellbeing of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems.

This does not mean that councils will ignore the health needs (or other needs) of people

The hierarchy of obligations will inform how councils identify and/or set:

- Long-term visions
- Values, including all compulsory values
- environmental outcomes as objectives
- target attribute states and environmental flows
- Limits and action plans



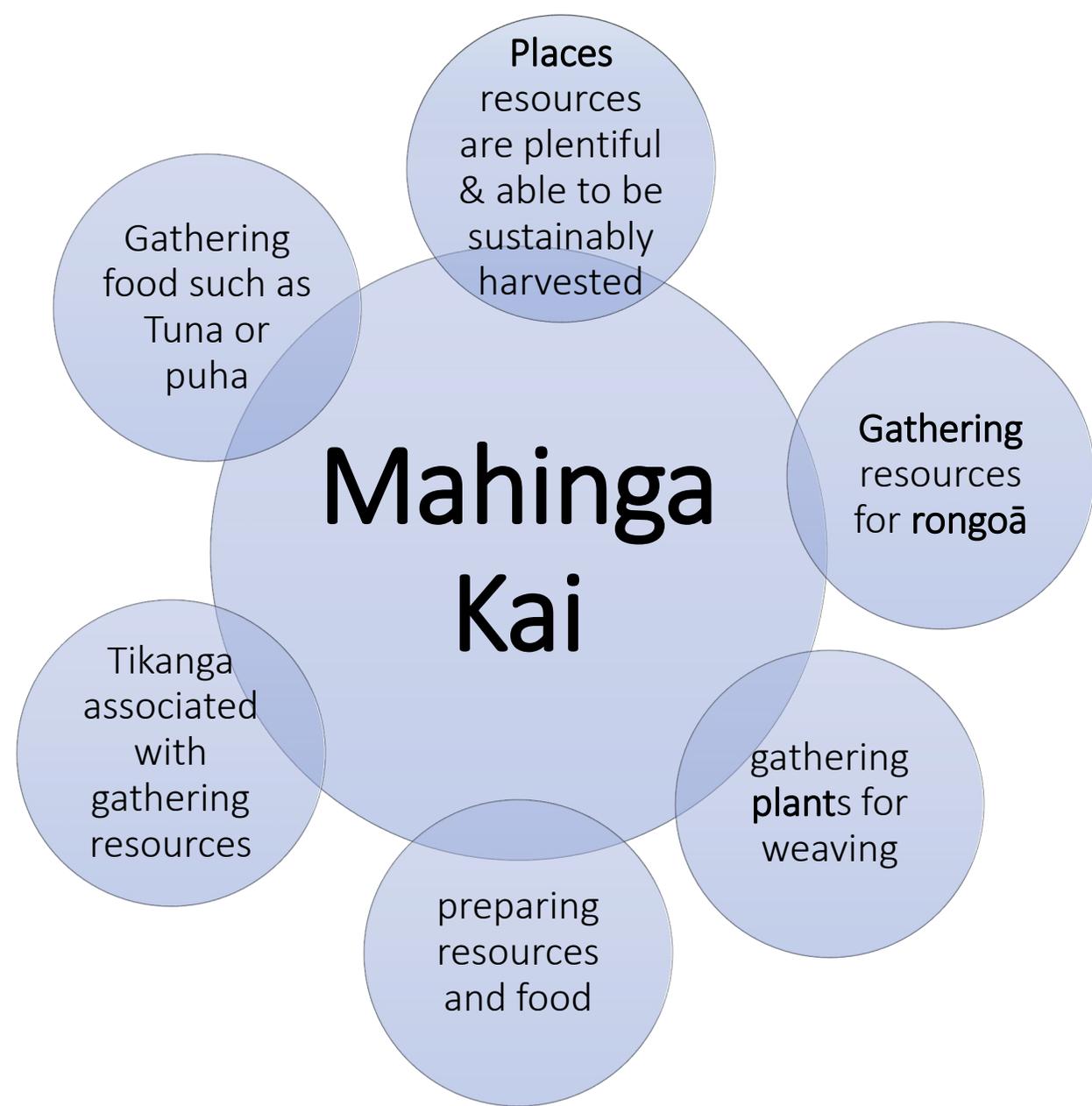
# *Te Mana o te Wai: vision setting*

- Informed by community and tangata whenua aspirations for their waterbodies
  - Gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai
  - Intergenerational
  - Visions identify a time frame that is both ambitious and reasonable (eg 30 years).
  - Draws on the history of, and current pressures, on local waterbodies and catchments
- Report on progress made towards the vision
- Objective in regional policy statements

# Mahinga kai

Mahinga kai is one of four compulsory values in the NPS-FM 2020. It is defined in the NPS-FM as

- Kai is safe to harvest and eat
- Kei te ora te mauri (the mauri of the place is intact)



# *Mahinga Kai values –NPS-FM*

- There are no pre-determined attributes or bottom lines for assessing mahinga kai values.
- Instead, councils will identify attributes locally by working with tangata whenua and communities.
- Unlike the other compulsory values in the NPS-FM, it's not a requirement for mahinga kai values to be able to be assessed in numeric terms.



# *Mahinga kai values –NPS-FM*

Councils must work with tangata whenua to identify:

- what mahinga kai encompasses for tangata whenua in their region
- measures of freshwater health that will help them to provide for mahinga kai (e.g. tuna numbers)
- desired environmental outcomes (which councils and tangata whenua can use to assess whether they are providing for mahinga kai).



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# *Mahinga kai values –NPS-FM*

Identify values

Determine desired outcomes

Identify attributes (measures of health)

Identify baseline and target states and set limits and flows

Monitor mahinga kai values

Develop action plans

Incorporate regionally determined mahinga kai value into regional freshwater planning and decision-making regarding freshwater management, including the National Objectives Framework process

# Threatened Species

Any indigenous species of flora or fauna that:

- a) relies on water bodies for at least part of its life cycle; and
- b) meets the criteria for nationally critical, nationally endangered, or nationally vulnerable species in the New Zealand Threat Classification System Manual



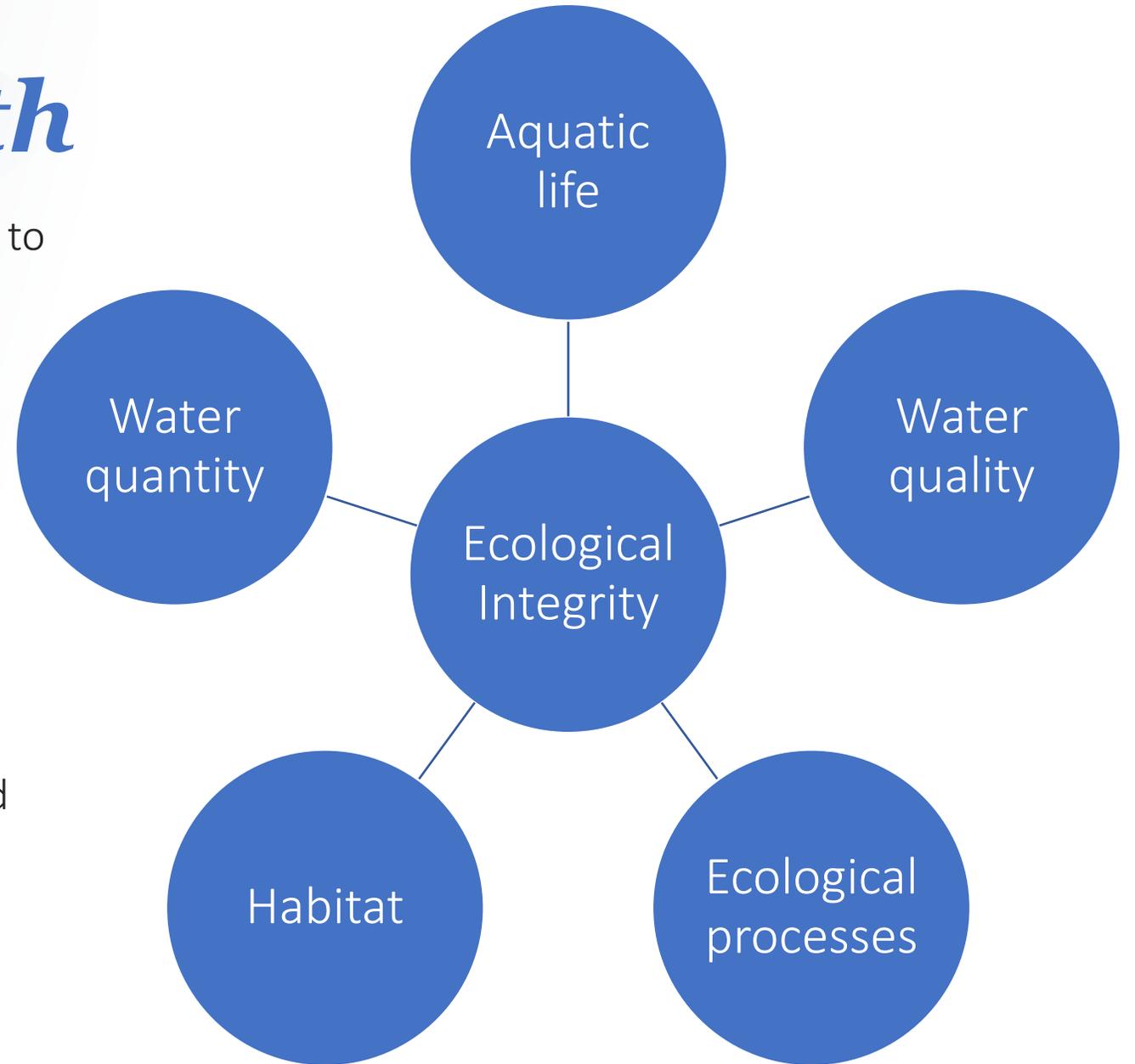
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# Ecosystem health

- Definition of ecosystem health value changed to expressly recognise the five components that make up ecosystem health:
  - Water quality
  - Water quantity
  - Aquatic life
  - Ecological processes
  - Habitat
- Previous definition of ecosystem health value emphasised the importance water quality and quantity but **less so the remaining three components**
- NPSFM now expressly states that **all five components** must be managed



# *Ecosystem health – new attributes*

- New attributes have been developed to help manage the aquatic life, habitat and ecosystem processes components
  - Submerged plants
  - Fish (IBI)
  - Macroinvertebrates
  - Deposited fine sediment
  - Ecosystem metabolism
- If target attribute states are not being met or monitoring shows declining trends, councils must be develop action plans

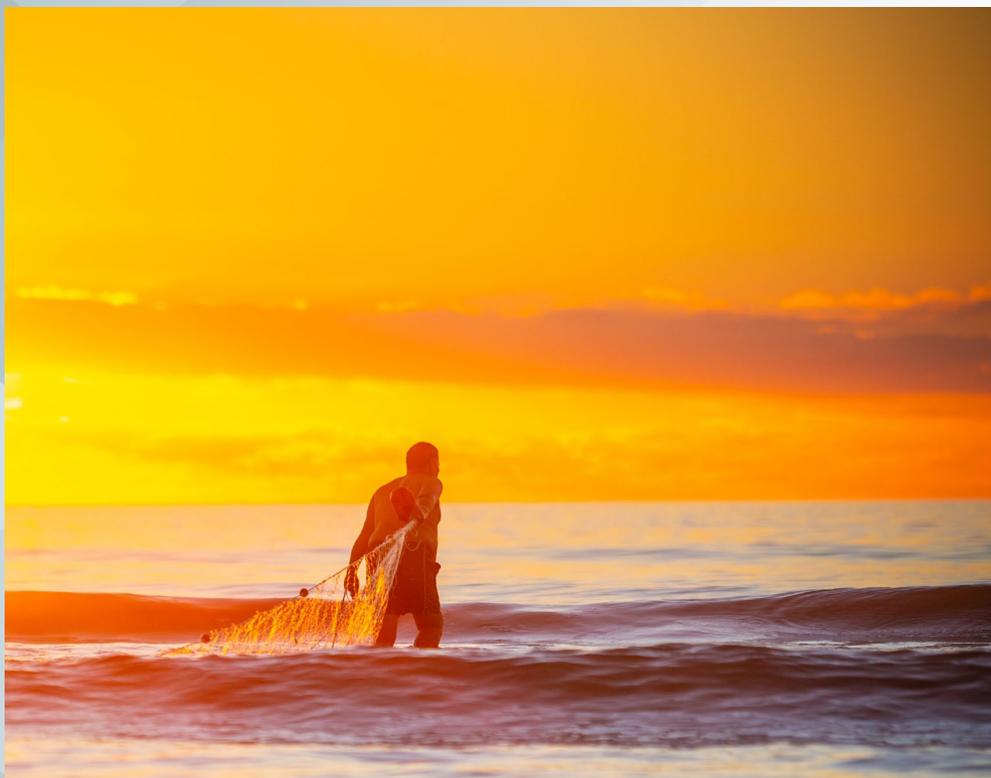


# *Human contact*



- The “human health for recreation value” has been essentially carried over as human contact
- The requirement to improve water quality in terms of human health in all freshwater management units has been retained
- Councils must identify primary contact sites within each FMU, and the bathing season that applies to them

# *Long term vision setting - From the vision to action*



1. **Set the vision**
2. **Identify** the geographical scale for freshwater management unit (**FMU**)
3. **Identify the values** applying to that FMU, which must include the four compulsory values (Ecosystem health, human contact, threatened species, mahinga kai) and nine other values that must be considered
4. **Set environmental outcomes** for the values
5. **Set flows and target attribute states** to achieve those objectives
6. **Set limits** to achieve those flows or target attribute states, and make rules and determine consents to achieve the limits; or prepare action plans to achieve the value or target attribute state

# Questions

1. How does the Ministry see TMOTW being expressed within the rule framework in regional plans (Iwi)
2. How will TMoTW priorities affect water storage projects specifically targeted for agriculture purposes be affected? (Kaipara DC)
3. What are the guidelines for attributing people and economy as a value?
4. What is the reason behind the requirement to establish **long-term visions** as objectives in RPSs?
5. How much time should councils spend on developing **long-term visions** in the context of the NOF and freshwater planning process?
6. The 'hierarchy of obligations' must be applied when developing long-term visions. How should the **long-term visions** balance the new expression of the hierarchy of obligations alongside legacies of past decisions, past developments, existing infrastructure and existing use rights that remain in play?

## Questions - continued

7. **Long-term visions** must be developed through engagement with communities and tāngata whenua. Is it plausible that some **long-term visions** could be developed via community engagement occurring around each regional councils' respective 2021-31 long term plan due next year?
8. Can existing vision-like statements in existing non-RMA strategic planning documents be retrofitted as a **long-term visions** for NPS-FM purposes (eg, statements in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, Waikato River Authority's Vision for the Waikato River etc)?
9. From a planning perspective, what is intended influence of long-term visions on consent decision-making if it is expressed as objective in RPS?
10. Will there be nationally consistent attributes developed for mahinga kai and threatened species?

# Upcoming Guidance 2020-21

## Mahinga kai

Future guidance including options of methods for determining current and target attribute states

## Threatened species

- Investigating support options for threatened species attributes
- 2020 guidance on identifying the location of freshwater habitats of threatened species
- MfE has released a report on a summary of current tools and resources for Identifying the Location of Freshwater Habitats of Threatened Species in New Zealand

