

What is mahinga kai?

Mahinga kai is not just about gathering food. It is a much broader concept that is fundamentally grounded in whakapapa (genealogy) and the interconnectedness of the natural world.

It means looking after the interconnected system of land and resources that support the growing and harvest of native species across their complete lifespan.

It means treating this system with respect and appreciation for the food it produces to nourish people.

Protecting mahinga kai means:



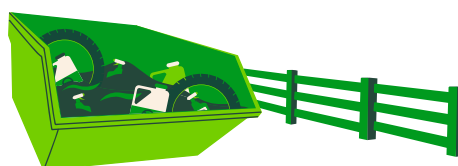
Allowing eels to get to breeding and feeding grounds



Fishing selectively so small eels can grow to breeding age



Using the land thoughtfully so it doesn't pollute waterways where food is grown or harvested



Disposing of waste so that it doesn't pollute the soil where food grows



Responsible use of chemicals and pesticides to avoid toxins affecting shellfish beds and whitebait spawning



Keen to learn more?

For more information about mahinga kai go to our website biodiversity.nz