

*"To the Maori, the waters of the sea and river are as much roads and gardens as roads and gardens on land. The harbour was as much owned and apportioned to the care and use of different tribes as the land was. To the local tribes the Manukau was their garden of the sea". . . — from the finding of the Waitangi Tribunal on the Manukau claim (1985).*



One of the key issues the Department of Conservation will have to address when it takes over responsibility for harbours and foreshores is that of Maori rights over traditional fishing and shellfish gathering grounds. Following the Tribunal's finding, a review of all laws relating to harbours, foreshores and rivers is taking place so that, in the Tribunal's concluding words: "Past wrongs can be put right, in a practical way, and it is not too late to begin again." The photograph shows mussel gatherers at Kare Kare Beach, just south of Piha on the west Auckland coast. Photo: Robin Smith

Front cover:  
Between 1792 and 1830 sealers almost wiped out the large population of fur seals along the rocky coast of south-west New Zealand. Now protected and shortly to be the responsibility of the Department of Conservation, fur seals now number approximately 50,000 in New Zealand. This photo was taken at Knights Point near Haast, and also features in the Society's forthcoming calendar.

Photo: P and J Morrin