Global Maritime Histories: Case studies for change
Phase One Projects 2024-2026



Ocean Literacy and Te Moana-nui-a-Toi: Building audience engagement with the ocean

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Ocean Literacy and Te Moana-nui-a-Toi: building audience engagement with the ocean is a research-based project by the New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa focused on increasing ocean literacy and creating opportunities to experience stories of the sea and explore ocean citizenship.

The project builds understanding, connection with and care for Te Moana-nui-a-Toi (the Outer Hauraki Gulf), a globally significant ecosystem rich in marine life.

DELIVERY ACHIEVEMENTS

Ocean Literacy and Te Moana-nui-a-Toi: building audience engagement with the ocean enabled three core components to be delivered:

- Foundation qualitative research with 8–14 year olds on how they see the ocean—identified as a knowledge gap in the New Zealand marine sector.
- A new learning programme tackling the building blocks of ocean literacy, using Te Moana-nui-a-Toi as a living example of an ocean engine that is still functioning but is at risk.
- Embedding Indigenous, historical and cultural perspectives throughout the learning programme, an immersive exhibition, public programmes and knowledge sharing.

OUTCOMES AND LEGACY

The project has a lasting legacy through:

- An ongoing learning programme.
- Key exhibition elements transferring to the Museum's Tangaroa gallery.
- Research insights informing future programming.

Key outcomes include:

- Increased knowledge and confidence in ocean literacy and marine ecology.
- Greater capacity to share Indigenous cultural and ecological stories.
- Strengthened role for the Museum as a place for contemporary ocean stories.
- Increased awareness of the local and global significance of Te Moana-nui-a-Toi.

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HUI TE ANANUI A TANGAROA

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