

Maori Fishhook Bone Carving

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The fishhook ranks as one of mankind's first – and most benign – tools. It illustrates man's dependence upon the providence of nature; the fish takes the hook and offers itself for man's benefit.

The Maori culture has transformed the fishhook into a gift to be worn as a piece of jewelry. Carved out of beef bone, the gift of the fishhook has come to symbolize three sentiments: “welcome”, “good luck” or “safe passage”. Often, the carved fishhook is given to express all three.

These hand carved fishhooks are worn by New Zealanders of all ages, whether men or women. I present this Maori fishhook to Loaves & Fishes not only to express my wish of welcome, good luck and safe passage but to say thank you for all you have done for me.