Submission of

Te Rūnanga o Ngā Kaimahi Māori o Aotearoa

to the

Ministerial Inquiry into Foreign Charter Vessels

P O Box 6645
Wellington

October 2011

1. Introduction

1.1. This submission is made by Te Rūnanga o Ngā Kaimahi Māori o Aotearoa (Te Rūnanga) the Māori arm of Te Kauae Kaimahi (CTU) which represents approximately 60,000 Māori workers of the 360,000 workers in unions affiliated to CTU.

1.2. We welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the Ministerial Inquiry into Foreign Charter Vessels (the 'Inquiry').

1.3. Our submission is that the operation of Foreign Charter Vessels ('FCVs') harms New Zealand's international reputation, does not maximise economic return from our fisheries resources, and fails to provide acceptable and equitable labour standards. Therefore the Inquiry needs to make recommendations that address policy, legislative and economic development issues.

1.4. We are saddened by the fact that such a large proportion of quota being held on behalf of Māori does not benefit Māori directly through decent work opportunities. We recognise that there is a complex set of issues involved. But how can anyone be satisfied with this situation? The promise that many thought would flow from asset ownership was that the benefits would flow through. Yet we have high Māori unemployment alongside minimal on-shore processing of quota.

2. Recommendations

2.1. We support the recommendations made by the CTU in their submission.

2.2. In particular we wish to highlight:

(a) Establishing a clear chain of responsibility that connects ITQ holders with the wages and conditions of work for crew on FCVs.

(b) Expanding training and employment opportunities in the fishing industry for Māori.

(c) Establishing and implementing an industry development strategy for better economic return from deepwater quota.