

He tono nā

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

ki

Department of Conservation and
Ministry of Fisheries

e pā ana ki te

New Zealand Sea Lion
Population Management Plan,
Species Management Plan and
2007-08 SQU6T Operational Plan:
Initial Position Paper

September 2007

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26 September 2007

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Ministry of Fisheries
PO Box 1020, WELLINGTON

1. TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU

Te Rūnanga is the tribal representative body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui, a body corporate established on 24 April 1996 under section 6 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (“the TRoNT Act”).

Section 3 of the TRoNT Act states:

“This Act binds the Crown and every person (including any body politic or corporate) whose rights are affected by any provisions of this Act.”

Section 15 of the TRoNT Act states:

“(1) Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu shall be recognised for all purposes as the representative of Ngāi Tahu Whānui”

“(2) Where any enactment requires consultation with any iwi or with any iwi authority, that consultation shall, with respect to matters affecting Ngāi Tahu Whānui, be held with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.”

On 21 November 1997 Te Rūnanga and Her Majesty the Queen executed a Deed of Settlement, whereby the Crown undertook to provide redress for all of Ngāi Tahu Whānui’s historical claims (the “Deed of Settlement”). The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (the “Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act”) provided for those aspects of the Deed of Settlement which required legislative effect.

The Deed of Settlement and the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act established Te Rūnanga as a Ministerial advisory committee to provide advice to the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Conservation on matters concerning the management and conservation of fisheries within the Ngāi Tahu Whānui Takiwā.

Te Rūnanga by virtue of its statutorily recognised position as the representative tribal body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui makes this submission on behalf of the Ngāi Tahu tribal collective. Attention is respectfully drawn to the special status of Te Rūnanga. Te Rūnanga notes that this submission should not be treated as a single submission but should be accorded the status and weight due to the tribal collective, Ngāi Tahu Whānui, that it represents.

There are currently over 41,000 members of Ngāi Tahu Whānui whose names are registered on the role in accordance with section 8 of the Act, and this number continues to grow. Notwithstanding its statutory status as the representative voice of Ngāi Tahu Whānui “for all purposes”, Te Rūnanga accepts and respects the right of individuals and Papatipu Rūnanga to make their own comments in relation to this matter.

2. MAHINGA KAI

Pursuant to its Ministerial Advisory Committee status under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, Te Rūnanga advises DOC and MFish to adopt strategies that are necessary to minimise the death of New Zealand Sea Lions as a bycatch of fishing activity in order to ensure that the Otago/Southland populations of this taonga species continue to increase. At some point in the future (no matter how distant) Ngāi Tahu Whānui would like to once again be able to exercise their customary right of harvesting this species sustainably as a source of mahinga kai.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

Any queries or comments in respect of this submission should be addressed to:

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Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
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This concludes the submission of Te Rūnanga on the draft New Zealand Sea Lion Population Management Plan, Species Management Plan and 2007-08 SQU6T Operational Plan: Initial Position Paper.