



**TE RUNANGA O TE RARAWA
28 South Rd, P.O. Box 361, KAITAIA**

Submission

Consultation on the Fisheries Services Proposed for 2008/09

Date: 22nd February 2008

Submitter: Abe Witana

Organization: Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa

Number of Individuals we represent: Approximately 15,000.¹

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INTRODUCTION

Te Rūnanga O Te Rarawa (the Rūnanga) is the iwi authority for the region from North Hokianga through to Kaitaia, up to Hukatere and bound by Te Oneroa a Tohe (Ninety Mile Beach) to the West. We represent 23 hapu marae in 16 communities, which in turn service more than 15,000 descendants. Our neighbouring iwi are Ngapuhi to the south, Ngati Kahu to the east and Ngaitakoto, Te Aupouri and Ngati Kuri to the north. These submissions are intended to compliment not substitute for submissions made by whānau, hapu and marae who may have a specific interest.

Iwi and stakeholders are invited to comment on the fisheries services and research projects proposed for the 2008/09 financial year.

The deadline for written submissions is Friday 22 February 2008.

¹ Based on the 2006 Census iwi population count. However, on our own iwi estimations our iwi population is nearer to 25,000.



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SUBMISSIONS

Iwi Rohe Moana Management Plans

The Minister of Fisheries has statutory obligations to base decisions on 'best available information', 'to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua', and 'to have particular regard to Kaitiakitanga'².

Iwi Rohe Moana Management Plans are proposed as the vehicle for doing this. They will allow tangata whenua to articulate their objectives for fisheries management based on Kaitiakitanga to provide the basis for their effective participation.

The plans would have two important benefits. First, they would improve the Crown's ability to meet specific statutory obligations. The Crown has obligations to tangata whenua and Maori arising from the Fisheries Deed of Settlement 1992 and subsequent pieces of legislation. Some obligations relate to the commercial, customary and aquaculture sectors. The Ministry has processes in train to meet these.

In addition, however, the Minister of Fisheries has a generic obligation under the Fisheries Act 1996 to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua into key fisheries management decisions and have particular regard to Kaitiakitanga [Fisheries Act 1996, s12 (1) (b)].

Expected result

68 iwi rohe moana plans to be developed by 2013. These plans are separate again to the Fisheries Plans envisaged for the North/South Islands east and west coasts for finfish and shellfish.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa supports those expected results under Iwi Rohe Moana Management Plans as proposed in the proposed fisheries services for 2008/09.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa supports clear separation between Iwi Rohe Moana Management Plans and Fisheries Plans envisaged.

In addition;

² These obligations are stated in sections 10 and 12 (1) (b) of the Fisheries Act 1996.



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The Minister has requested \$1.5 M for 2008/09 and increasing amounts for the following years to implement iwi rohe moana management plans. These are to fulfil the statutory obligations in section 10 and 12 (1)(b) of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa requests that this budget is increased to \$2.8 M with the increase of \$1.3 M coming from the Amateur Fishing Trust;

and that Iwi are consulted regarding allocation of these funds;

and that Iwi Rohe Moana Management Plan Implementation includes capacity building i.e. Iwi Customary Fisheries Coordinator;

Firstly this will enable Iwi to coordinate the efficacy and effectiveness of our current and future management practices armed with historical and current information, technology and both western and Maori sciences;

Secondly coordinating baseline data for Iwi rohe moana resources providing effective engagement with Hapu and areas of shared interest with other Iwi in order to participate in fisheries management effectively.

Amateur Fishing Trust

Effective amateur fisher participation is important for the legitimacy of fisheries management processes, and, in particular, the representation of amateur values and the consideration of trade-offs associated with alternative management options.

The sector also lacks the capacity to engage formally with commercial and Maori stakeholder groups to develop and agree on innovative arrangements that can significantly increase the value gained from the use of shared fisheries. The situation results in dissatisfaction and contention and compromises constructive fisheries management initiatives.

The current low level of management input from the sector is constrained by a lack of funding and the voluntary and part-time nature of participation. Moving fisheries management along a path toward greater stakeholder responsibility for decision-making would enable participants to agree on arrangements that increase value without the need for Crown intervention.



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Operating under a Trust Deed and having a secure funding base will allow the Trust to provide an immediate boost to the amateur sector's capacity to engage in fisheries management and participate in a negotiated approach favoured for allocation and local area management.

Expected results

- That a Trust be established, trustees appointed by December 2008
- Trust deed provides for strategic plan to be developed by June 2009

The Minister is applying for \$5 million from the 2008 budget to establish an Amateur Fishing Trust.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa supports the Ministers application and requests that this budget is reduced to \$3.7 M to offset allocation of \$1.3 M to Iwi Rohe Moana Management Plans.

In addition;

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa supports those expected results as proposed in the proposed fisheries services for 2008/09;

And proposes that Maori Representation is sought from outside Mandated Iwi Organisations and or Recognised Iwi Authorities

Scientific research in support of fisheries management

The declining real value of the research budget and escalating demands for high quality information have led to increasing numbers of core, high priority projects being dropped or deferred each year. The current baseline is 58% of the 1991/92 budget in real terms, while there are three times as many stocks in the QMS and information needs have significantly expanded to include recreational harvest estimates and environmental and international.

Even after applying rigorous planning, consultation, and prioritisation processes, the Ministry is now continually having to withdraw or defer core, high priority projects that are likely to feed directly into management decision making.

The Ministry currently has sufficient information to estimate the status of only 85 (13.5%) of the 629 stocks in the QMS. This group includes many of the major



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commercial fisheries, but there is insufficient information for many stocks that support important commercial, recreational, or customary fisheries to assess whether current catch levels are sustainable.

Expected result

- Improved information on recreational harvest estimates for important recreational species
- Distribution and abundance of Hector's and Maui's dolphins
- Research on other protected species
- Estimates of abundance for Snapper in the SNA 1 area
- Research on local area fisheries and key customary species
- Research surveys for Southern Blue Whiting, Orange Roughy, Hoki and other key species

An increase of \$6 million for 2008/09 and out years will boost the fisheries research budget to approximately 78% of its 1991/92 level in real terms and enable some of the priority research projects to be undertaken.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa supports the increase of \$6m for projects in the proposed fisheries services for 2008/09.

In addition;

We support both research project bids regarding toheroa and the impacts of traffic on Te Oneroa a Tohe beach with respect to these animals.

Other key customary species of research interest to Te Rarawa are paua, green lip mussels and in particular spat.

We are interested in all research conducted at the local area and would like to indicate support for funding initiatives that support research at the local area.

Local area research initiatives would also bring integrate scientific support and maori support for upcoming and potential mātaihai applications

**Foreshore and seabed negotiations with Ngati Porou and Te Whanau a Apanui
Waikato-Tainui River Treaty settlement negotiations**

Current negotiations are exploring:



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- Mechanisms to meet expectations of Ngati Porou and Te Whanau a Apanui in the management of fisheries on the East Coast of the North Island;
- And a Crown-iwi co-management framework and an integrated approach to management of the Waikato River (including fisheries).

In addition to this framework, the Ministry will be required to assist Waikato-Tainui develop their fisheries management plan for the River. New Ministry services are required to develop and implement these new mechanisms.

Expected results

- Implement Waikato/Tainui settlement
- Implement agreement with Ngati Porou and Te Whanau a Apanui
- Support development of Waikato river fisheries management plan by Waikato/Tainui guardians
- Deliver extension and compliance services in accordance with final agreement between Crown and Ngati Porou and Te Whanau a Apanui

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa supports those expected results as proposed under Foreshore and seabed negotiations with Ngati Porou and Te Whanau a Apanui Waikato-Tainui River Treaty settlement negotiations in the proposed fisheries services for 2008/09.

We acknowledge your efforts, our efforts and the efforts of many others to enhance sustainable management and utilisation of our fisheries and aquatic environments, we look forward to further participating in future management and policy development processes.

Piki te ora,

Abraham Witana,
Environmental Coordinator,
Te Runanga o Te Rarawa