

Waikaretu Marae
Pouto
Te Kopuru RD1
Northland 0391

13 February 2007

Hon Jim Anderton
Minister of Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tena Koe Minister,

RE: Proposed Fisheries Services for 2007 (EEL2007/04)

We write to endorse the Pouto Lakes Proposal (EEL2007/04) for eel research as outlined in the Proposed Fisheries Services for 2007 document. Tuna or eel is a highly valued resource for the Te Un 0 Hau hapu. In the past whanau came from all over the rohe to catch eels in the Pouto Lakes. They were a staple part of the diet and are considered a taonga species for Te Un 0 Hau. In more recent times the resource has become depleted and effected by landbased activities as well as fishing pressure.

We understand that tangata whenua will be able to actively participate in the research which will enhance our kaitiaki role by providing us with new scientific and technical skills to add to our current customary management practices. This will allow greater understanding of the eel population in the Pouto lakes. The results could then be applied to decision making around whether restrictions on fishing methods and/or temporary closures may be required to restore and enhance the eel resource in the area. We strongly support this project and look forward to our involvement in this research process.

Naku noa, na

Mihi Watene
Marae Chairperson on behalf of
Waikaretu Marae