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Ministry of Fisheries

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ATTN Peter Boon

## CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

Thank you for advising of the opportunity to comment on the above. The Budget round is critical for the operation of your Department and for the effective inclusion of Ngati Ruanui in initiatives that will add value to Iwi participation. Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui is the recognised governance entity of the Iwi of Ngati Ruanui. It derives that authority from the Ngati Ruanui Claims Settlement Act 2003.

In the document there are some noble concessions that on the whole MFish does not do a good job of engaging with Maori. Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui, has had occasion to complain strongly to the Ministry about being left out of the loop on many issues. It is pleasing to note that there has been a meaningful resurgence in information exchange since December last year.

Without wishing to derogate from the efforts of all Ministry staff involved in developing relationships, the first signs of improvement came through Sam Tamarapa, and Paul Cresswell. It is not lost on Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui that Warwick Tuck has supported better communication strategies. Names such as Peter Boon, Ray Necklen, Terry Lynch, and Brian Ashton are becoming more familiar to us with the result that we are feeling better about where things are going.

Many Iwi are dealing with many issues and those who have not settled their historical Treaty claims with the Crown are more vulnerable to bearing the cost of participation in decision making processes. Four areas which may inhibit effective participation by Iwi organisations. Hapu and individuals include:

- Infrastructural capacity
- Information volume
- Pathways of communication
- Ministry commitment to educating its staff on Treaty obligations

Ngati Ruanui is in a position to address those challenges. However, it is a struggle and any assistance is welcomed.

Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui has been receiving regular material on diverse and important issues including

- Maori Fisheries Bill/Act changes
- Sfe and Lfe OMS entry
- Minimum legal size Paua fishery in Taranaki
- TFL committee
- Introduction of New Species into OMS October 2004
- Mfish Statement of Intent
- Introduction of Green Lipped Mussel and Spiny Dogfish into OMS October 2004
- Introduction of Kahawai into OMS 2004
- Ngai Tahu -Quota Aggregation Application

The information is comprehensive and often very technical. Te Runanga needs assistance on demystifying some of the jargon and researching the state of the fishery in the rohe of Ngati Ruanui.

Ngati Ruanui also has a protocol issued by the Minister of Fisheries pursuant to settlement of its Treaty Claims. That Protocol is a statutory instrument issued under the Ngati Ruanui Claims Settlement Act 2003 and its effect remains to be quantified. Engagement with the Ministry is sought, particularly since the protocol refers specifically to the "customary interests" of Ngati Ruanui in taonga fish species.

- Success indicators in dealing with the Ministry of Fisheries would include:
- Inclusion at regional and national Hui.
- 6 monthly meetings with Senior staff as outlined in our protocol
- Inclusion as a key stakeholder in planning documents within the Ruanui takiwa
- Input in to budget rounds
- Input in to monitoring and reviewing of Ministry initiatives affecting Ngati Ruanui
- Assistance in advancing economic development of the Ngati Ruanui fishery

The progressive budget of \$3.5m to \$4.5m by 2007 for the Treaty strategy is viewed as a comparable budget to other competing initiatives. It is known in anyone year budgets are subject to the whims and caprices of government intervention.

To hedge against that kind of interference Ngati Ruanui would like the budget to be vigorously monitored and reviewed, so that changes which effectively undermine the potency of the Strategy are transparent.

For example if extension officers are employed -it should be on a full time basis and not for example as a job share to an already existing officer. Similarly additional fisheries management advisors should be employed new and full time, so that an already existing position is not simply used and reconstructed with Treaty strategy budget.

If Treasury or Ministers strike out the annual budget by whatever percentage we would like to know.

In other words mechanisms should be put in place which ensures that the Treaty Strategy dollar is used to implement all of the Ministry Treaty Strategy, and not simply dumped on existing initiatives and positions, or unilaterally cut without advising key stakeholders.

Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui will monitor the Treaty Strategy closely, because there are some positive aspects which could improve relationships between Iwi and the Department. Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui has been formally recognised by the Minister of Fisheries as an Advisory Body and takes that responsibility seriously.

It will undertake to build relationships and not just unnecessarily recourse to adversarial stances.

**Naku noa, Na**

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