

TE KUPENGA WHITURAUROA a MAUI

55 KIPPENBURGER STREET

MASTERTON

9 December 2005

Dr John Glaister
Chief Executive
Ministry of Fisheries

Cc: Bay of Plenty Forum, Nga Hapu o Te Uri, Hokianga Accord, Ngai Tahu, TOKM

Tena koe te Rangatira

RE: SOI

On behalf of Te Kupenga Whiturauroa a Maui (Regional Kaitiaki Customary Fisheries Forum), we take this opportunity to proactively write to you in regards to the upcoming Statement of Intent.

We have found the engagement with the Ministry of Fisheries through the regional forum concept as a productive and mutually beneficial way to interact. I'm sure your staff (Pou Hononga, SFMA Central Inshore Team and Extension Services) attending the meetings would concur with our mutually beneficial view. On this basis we signal to you that the concept should continue and the funding set aside for the running of these forums be increased.

In light of the political and media climate excessively highlighting Maori shortcomings, calls for funding cuts and allegations of 'race based funding' we find it necessary to remind the Ministry that this is not merely a policy issue rather it is a direct result of a negotiated agreement via the Deed of Settlement and Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Settlement Act.

We are aware that the Ministry annually receives several millions of dollars to operate the Deed of Settlement project whilst \$200,000 is set aside for the operation of forums. Having completed over a year of meetings we know from experience that \$20,000 whilst a sufficient start, is not enough to operate our forum and in particular cover costs of follow-up meetings and work resulting from the quarterly forum meetings.

We are not seeking to be paid for our time but we do seek adequate funds to cover expenses in meeting workloads expected by both our people and the Ministry. We hope the Statement of Intent will reflect our requirements

Naku noa

Na Tom Paku
Chairman