

Te Runanga o Ngati Kuia Charitable Trust

***Kaimoana Kaitiaki O Ngati Kuia
Ngati Kuia Customary Fisheries***

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13 February 2007

Ministry of Fisheries
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Tena koe i nga uri o Te Tautiaki i nga Tini a Tangaroa

Submission - Ministry of Fisheries Statement of Intent

This submission has been developed in response to the Ministry of Fisheries Statement of Intent (SOI) document released for public submission on the 10 January 2007. Owing to constant resourcing difficulties this submission only addresses points of concern from the SOI which relate to the implementation of the Deed of Settlement.

The issue has been raised and addressed that the main thrust of this submission is to recommend that the Ministry of Fisheries provide for a service contract with Te Tau Ihu iwi in the SOI currently being consulted. Initially, this is seen as a pilot project and will endeavour to fulfill our iwi expectations for sustainable fisheries management with added value through kaitiakitanga integration and added capacity

This submission has been prepared on behalf of Ngati Kuia, which is a member of the Te Tau Ihu Fisheries Forum constituting of Te Atiawa, Ngati Apa, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama, Ngati Toa, Ngati Koata and Rangitane.

Deed of Settlement Implemented

The Ministry of Fisheries will be well aware of progress and financial commitment being made by Te Tau Ihu iwi in relation to the establishment of a forum. That developing relationship is currently reflected, at least in part, in a draft memorandum of

understanding (MOU) between Te Tau Ihu Iwi and the Ministry of Fisheries. The intention is to further the interests of both parties to primarily improve the management of the fisheries resources in Te Tau Ihu, and to recognize and provide for the use and management systems of tangatawhenua. More specifically.

The Ministry of Fisheries has an obligation to:

- provide for the input and participation of Tangata Whenua into processes which provide for utilization, while ensuring sustainability, in the Fisheries Act and have particular regard to kaitiakitanga when making decisions relating to those processes;
- must consult with those parties (including engagement with Maori and Tangata Whenua) who may be affected by the Ministry's proposals;
- must develop policies to help recognize use and management practices, including Mātauranga Maori, of Tangata Whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights;
- must make regulations to recognize and provide for the extent of Maori customary food gathering, and the special relationship between Tangata Whenua and places of customary food gathering importance;

It is the considered view of Ngati Kuia and Te Tau Ihu iwi that the Ministry will better achieve their obligations through entering into a service contract directly with iwi from the Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka region.

Even though the Poutakawaenga and Pouhononga strategy goes some way to meeting the Crown's obligations, there is much more that could be achieved for the Ministry and Iwi, through the Ministry contracting Iwi directly to provide particular services. Under the current system there is a real risk that the forum may not gather the momentum and expertise required to achieve the unified result that will benefit our goals and the matauranga/knowledge of the biodiversity we are aiming to protect on behalf of past, present and future generations.

Accordingly, this submission recommends that:

The Ministry provides in the annual budget for a service contract with Te Tau Ihu Iwi in the 2007-08 Statement of Intent

The Ministry may wish to consider implementing a service contract with Te Tau Ihu iwi as a pilot project, perhaps over a three year period. The outcomes of such a project should easily be able to measure performance against the current strategies employed by the Ministry for delivering on Treaty obligations. This will provide an opportunity to measure the value of either regime, and to plan for longer term arrangements.

To date the Ministry has not consulted with Ngati Kuia, or any other Iwi for that matter, on ways for the Crown to best deliver on its obligations to Maori. Indeed, this is the first occasion for which Ngati Kuia have expressed a view on the subject.

We welcome and encourage further dialogue with the Ministry on this matter.

Noho mai ra

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