

Fisheries

Te Tautiaki i nga fini a Tangaroa

31 August 2007

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Your recent enquiry and remarks over the status of the Hokianga Accord vis-A-vis Iwi Forums, as funded by the Ministry, has been sent to me for a response: (e-mails of 1 to 14 August between yourself and Ian Ferguson refers).

I think it best I preface my comments with extracts from correspondence between our Deputy (now Acting) Chief Executive, Stan Crothers, and the Chairman of Te Rōinanga A Iwi o Ngāpuhi, Sonny Tau. *"I need to be quite clear that the Ministry's understanding of our agreement is that the Hokianga Accord is not an Iwi Regional Forum; it is a joint iwi/recreational body. As such it is not a body that the Ministry has resources to fund. Consequently, the Ministry will not meet costs associated with this body."* -Letter to Te Rōinanga dated 26 May 2006.

In essence, it is our understanding that in developing proposals on how the Hokianga Accord would operate, the Accord would be the body through which iwi and recreational fisheries worked together to co-ordinate their common interests. To this end, the Rōinanga Chair proposed to establish a charitable trust. Moreover, the proposal was that the Ministry would NOT have a role within the Accord. The Ministry confirmed its agreement with this approach as put forward by the Chairman of Te Rōinanga.

From discussions with representatives of mid-north hapū and iwi, who attended a meeting with the Ministry at the end of June 2006, the majority were of the view that the primary relationship (with the Ministry) should be between individual governance entities rather than through a single Iwi Forum. Our tabled approach, that could provide for better input and participation of hapū and iwi into fisheries sustainability processes, is to use smaller working groups to develop and implement commonly agreed work programmes to research, identify, develop and promote iwi fisheries management objectives into Ministry-led fisheries plans and other sustainability processes. In later correspondence, the Ministry corrected a view of Te Rōinanga that the Accord is an Iwi Forum. The Ministry pointed out that this view was not supported by all the representatives of the governance entities at the June meeting.

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Further, in later correspondence: *"In respect of the current operation of the Hokianga Accord, I have made it quite clear that the -Ministry and the majority of representatives of hapTi and iwi in mid Te Tai Tokerau do not as yet consider that body to be a Regional Forum. In my view I thought it was clear from our discussions with all parties at the 30 June meeting that the Ministry would only expend funds for input and participation on activities that were agreed to by all the governance entities in mid Te Tai Tokerau."* -Letter to the Chairman of Te Runanga A Iwi o Noapuhi dated 28 September 2006.

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Having made our position clear, our Deputy Chief Executive further advised Te Runanga in an email dated 19 October 2006 " *While the Hokianga Accord is not an Iwi forum for the mid-north, MFish staff subject to priorities, will be able to attend these hui to discuss particular agenda items. However we will need adequate notice of time, place., agenda items etc so that we can plan and prepare. "*

Richard I hope this clears up any misunderstandings you may have over the status of the Hokianga Accord. Iwi/hap-5 Forums, as such, will be established around the country (we already have 11) ... but they will be forged with representatives of hapēi and iwi who align with particular areas / regions. In other words. their creation will be as a result of discussions between tangata whenua and the Ministry.

In respect to the mid-north, we are currently looking at various models that may meet our needs and those of tangata whenua. These will be discussed with representatives of hapēi and iwi when the time is right. In terms of the Hokianga Accord, you have our Acting Chief Executive's assurance that the Ministry will attend its meetings when they are invited and where it is appropriate, subject of course to them being available ... this was confirmed recently by Ian Ferguson. And, as our Acting Chief Executive has advised, adequate notice of meetings is also a necessary consideration.

Nak-u noa. na

Carl Ross

Customary Relationship Manager