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JA1459

Richard Baker
Vice President
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PO Box 93
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Cc: Associate Minister of Fisheries.

Dear Richard

HOKIANGA ACCORD AND THE PROVISION OF INPUT AND PARTICIPATION OF TANGATA WHENUA

Thank you for your letter regarding the Crown's obligation to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua, and your suggestion that the Hokianga Accord be the vehicle for this for the mid-north North Island iwi.

I am aware of the Crown's obligations and do not accept that the Crown is failing to meet either its obligation to consult over fisheries management decisions or its wider obligation to enable input and participation by Maori.

I understand the Hokianga Accord is a grouping of some iwi and recreational parties in the mid-north of the North Island concentrating on non-commercial issues. As such the Hokianga Accord itself does not fit the criteria for an Iwi Fisheries Forum for the region as it does not include the agreement of all the representatives of governance entities as the preferred engagement model. It would not be appropriate for the Ministry of Fisheries (the Ministry) to fund the Hokianga Accord from resources the Government has allocated to provide for input and participation by tangata whenua.

I recognise the good relationships that recreational fishers and iwi have built in the mid-north region of the North Island to address non-commercial fishing interests. I understand the parties to the Accord have found it a useful vehicle to discuss and develop common views on issues of common interest. The Ministry has indicated it will meet with the Accord to provide information and hear their views.

I note the previous correspondence between Ministry officials and representatives of the Hokianga Accord. I trust this letter makes clear that I believe the Crown is meeting its legislative obligation in respect of providing for the input and participation of tangata whenua into commercial and non-commercial issues.

Yours sincerely

Jim Anderton

Minister of Fisheries

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