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MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

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BY: _____

Mr Raniera Tau
Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi
PO Box 263
KAIKOHE

Tena koe Sonny

HOKIANGA ACCORD HUI- NAUMAI MARAE

1 I refer to your recent correspondence regarding:

- (a) the provision for the input and participation of tangata whenua into fisheries management; and
- (b) your invitation for Ministry staff to attend a hui of tangata whenua and recreational fishers at Naumai Marae, on 20 and 21 July 2006.

2 You will have received my letter outlining the Ministry's understanding of the position taken by the majority of Mid-North leaders regarding input and participation by their organisations into fisheries management processes. The majority of leaders indicated that they were currently of the view that the primary relationship should be between individual governance entities and the Ministry rather than through a single Regional Iwi Forum, while not ruling out the possibility of your organisations working together with the Ministry in some areas. While this view poses difficulties for the Ministry in terms of our ability to resource such an approach, I have committed to work with the leaders of the governance entities in the Mid-North to explore where the group feels it would be useful to work together with the Ministry and where each entities objectives could be better achieved by working at an individual level.

3 As a first step to develop a model of input and participation that meets the objectives of tangata whenua, and that can be achieved within the Ministry's resource constraints, I have proposed a further joint meeting of Mid-North leaders within the next month to continue the discussions commenced at our meeting in Whangarei. I hope that Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi will be able to attend that meeting and continue your constructive contributions to the debate on the best options for tangata whenua to work together, as well as with the Ministry, to achieve better fisheries management outcomes.

4 In respect of the Hokianga Accord, it is clear that most Mid-North leaders do not consider that this vehicle is as yet their preferred option for input and participation into fisheries management processes. As such it cannot be considered to be a Regional Iwi Forum

fisheries management processes. As such it cannot be considered to be a Regional Iwi Forum and it would not be appropriate for the Ministry to fund its operations from resources that Government has allocated to provide for the input and participation by tangata whenua.

5 The Ministry does however recognise the benefits that can be achieved by stakeholders and iwi working together to understand and respect each others perspectives on the value of fisheries to their communities. The Ministry also recognises the work that Ngapuhi and recreational fishers have done on developing common understandings on approaches to fisheries management and options to achieve collective fisheries objectives. The series of hui Ngapuhi has sponsored between tangata whenua and recreational fishers has provided an opportunity for Maori and non-Maori non-commercial fishers to meet together, hear what is happening in fisheries management and discuss and develop common views on issues that affect them both. This can only be beneficial in the long run. While the Ministry does not consider the hui to be held at Naumai Marae to be a meeting of a Regional Iwi Forum, the Ministry is prepared to attend the hui and speak to the matters you have set out in the agenda.

6 Once again I note that there are areas of the proposed agenda where it would not be appropriate for government officials to be in attendance. I would appreciate it if all the matters you wish the Ministry to speak on could be grouped together to enable us to provide our contribution and then for all Ministry staff to leave the hui. We will have staff available to talk to the items identified on the agenda that require Ministry input (Maori customary tools, MPA policy, Fisheries Plans, Shared Fisheries Project, maximum sustainable yield, and any Ministry update required on regional Iwi forums).

7 I look forward to meeting you again in Whangarei to develop with the other leaders in the Mid-North a model for input and participation that best achieves all the governance entities objectives.

Noho ora mai



GT(Stan) Crothers
Deputy Chief Executive