

# Te Rūnanga-ā-Iwi o Ngāti Kahu



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KO MĀMARU TE  
WAKA

06 August 2009

*Ko Maungataniwha te Maunga  
Ko Tokerau te Moana  
Ko Mamaru te Waka  
Ko Te Parata te Tangata  
Ko Kahutianui te Tupuna  
Ko Ngāti Kahu te Iwi*

**Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngāti Kahu is the mandated Iwi Authority for the 15 marae of Ngāti Kahu.**

## **Ngāti Kahu Mana Whenua:**

The southern boundary is located on the East Coast at Te Whatu (Berghan's Point), heading inland via Kohumaru to the Maungataniwha mountain range, northwards via Takahue; through Kaitaia, along the western side of the Rangianiwaniwa ranges to Rangaunu Harbour, southwards via the Karikari Peninsula, on to Tokerau Moana and returning to Te Whatu.

Kaitaia is classed as a Shared Interest between the Iwi of Muriwhenua.

## **Ngāti Kahu Mana Moana:**

As affirmed in Te Tiriti O Waitangi - Ngāti Kahu is the guardian of the natural resources – land, foreshores, sea, waterways etc – within our tribal region. This includes the foreshores and seabeds extending out from the coast and harbours of: The southern boundary is located on the East Coast at Te Whatu (Berghan's Point) with an imaginary line to the 200 nautical mile Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ). The northern boundary is an imaginary line through Rangaunu Harbour out to the 200 nautical mile EEZ. All of the sea area between the northern and southern boundaries out to the 200 nautical mile EEZ; including the Moturoa Islands and all other relevant incidental islands therein.

Ngati Kahu, through Te Paatu, also has an ancient rite of access and harvesting mataitai on Te Oneroa-a-Tohe (90 Mile Beach).

## **Population:**

We have an estimated population residing in our rohe of 2,300 people. While the total number of Ngāti Kahu spread throughout New Zealand is estimated at 8,313 (information from Statistics NZ 2006 census). More recent calculations based on genealogical information put that figure closer to 15,000.

## **Purpose:**

The principal role of Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngāti Kahu (TRIONK) is to protect, enhance and promote the well being and assets of our people.

TIHEI MAURI ORA  
Te Rūnanga-ā-Iwi o Ngāti  
Kahu



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06 August 2009

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TE RUNANGA-A-IWI O NGATI KAHU'S SUBMISSION ON:

Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) Initial Position Paper – October 2009-10 Fishing year

Proposal to Open More North Island Areas to Commercial Beach Cast Seaweed Harvesting

1. In the first instance, Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu SUPPORTS 'Option A' 'The Status Quo'
2. Therefore, we OPPOSE Options B & C
3. Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu, along with other local agencies, are endeavouring to limit, even abolish, vehicular access to Northland beaches (especially Oneroa-a-Tohe and Tokerau)
4. Options B & C are more liable to increase such traffic, especially after storms
5. Beach cast seaweed affords sustenance for 'sand-hoppers' and other small sea creatures that are valuable food sources for local fish (i.e. yellow-eyed-mullet, parore etc.)

6. Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu is fearful that increased removal of this source of food will eventually upset the balance of nature in so far as the food-chain is concerned. Big fleas have little fleas that bite them; so on and so forth, ad infinitum!
7. Have there been any 'OFFICIAL' surveys undertaken on the POSSIBLE effects of mass removal of beach cast seaweed?
8. If so, is this data available and where can it be found?
9. In the Summary of Proposal (supplied by MFish), Item 24 (Assessment of Management Options) states: "*Beach cast seaweed is an important contributor to the health of marine ecosystem but there is still limited information available to adequately describe its role and contribution to the coastal marine environment.*"
10. Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu believes the above claim should be vigorously investigated 'BEFORE' options B & C are even considered.
11. Trolling through the 'Internet' much information can be found on the DETRIMENTAL effects of removing beach cast seaweed
12. Nothing was found that gave a POSITIVE or COMMERCIAL view! (That's not saying the information isn't out there somewhere)
13. Many people, who live along beaches, gather beach cast seaweed as an addition to their compost heaps, or as a general fertiliser
14. Has the Ministry considered a possible 'conflict of interest' between the general public and the commercial (licensed) operators?
15. Continued removal of large quantities of beach cast seaweed could see the a decline in the sand levels of those beaches

16. According to the Summary of Proposal (supplied by MFish) Item 23 states: *‘In addition, many communities find the amount of beach cast seaweed washing up on their shores to be significant and detrimental to community values. As a consequence, and despite the current restrictions on commercial beach cast seaweed harvesting, a number of Regional and Territorial Authorities have developed beach cast seaweed removal plans and/or regularly remove seaweed from beaches (e.g. in Auckland, Hutt, Manukau, North Shore, Far North, and Gisborne). A review of commercial beach cast seaweed harvesting areas and other removal activities may therefore help to align current rules with common practice.*
17. Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu would be interested to learn exactly where the Far North Authority clears beach cast seaweed in their district
18. In summertime red beach cast seaweed gathers along several points of Tokerau Beach (Doubtless Bay); where it lays, a stagnating, rotting, stinking mess
19. It remains there until a storm takes it away
20. Why doesn't the Far North Authority do something about this beach cast seaweed?
21. Te Runanga-a-Iwi O Ngati Kahu still prefers ‘Option A’ ‘The Status Quo’
22. In the event of the Ministry agreeing to options B or C, Ngati Kahu would expect to be consulted about licensees within our rohe

**Victor C. Holloway**  
Environmental Resource Manager