

Hokianga Accord

“More fish in the water/Kia maha nga ika i roto i te wai”

26th October 2007

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Tena Koe Carl

Greetings from Te Whare o Ngapuhi, Tamaki Makaurau ki te Rerenga Wairua and the mid north iwi fisheries forum.....

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October advising of your unavailability, and that of Stan Crothers and Jonathan Peacey, to attend the tenth Hokianga Accord hui in Auckland on the 9th and 10th of November 2007. Are you the only three within MFish that can address those issues?

We will have no problem rearranging the hui agenda as there are many other important topics that can be addressed during the timeslots allocated to the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish), but out of courtesy and given the torrid time MFish is currently having getting agreement on the issues outlined in the agenda, we thought we would offer MFish the opportunity to address a few issues regarding your responsibilities to iwi which have been neglected in the mid-north.

The Hokianga Accord has always maintained an open invitation to all to attend hui, particularly MFish. We have both encouraged and given ample time for MFish staff to participate in previous hui and fulfil their statutory obligation, on behalf of the Fisheries Minister, to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua into fisheries management processes.

The Accord did make a point of sending the Minister a personal hui invitation earlier in the month as an acknowledgement of his other Ministerial commitments. As you are also well aware I sent a personal invitation to most MFish staff allocated speaking topics on the agenda. One of the strengths of this mid north iwi Forum has been the manaaki we have offered to our manuhiri, especially MFish. If you and your colleagues choose to view this development as a discourtesy then that is entirely up to you all and is contrary to what MFish staff have been offered during your previous time with us.

As for your concern about the misallocation of topics to particular MFish staff, the agenda was merely a guideline to advise of the matters that will be raised during the hui and as you have experienced previously, the Accord agenda items and speakers are inter-changeable. I would suggest that if this misallocation is a major concern for MFish then the most helpful input you could give would be to advise who would be most appropriate individuals to speak to those topics. We look forward to having Jonathan Dick join us at the hui. The Pou-Hononga for the far north, George Riley, has earned the respect of all those contributing to the Hokianga Accord. We expect him to attend the hui.

Thank you, the Accord is very interested in receiving a written update and overview of the Deed of Settlement Implementation Programme in lieu of MFish' non-attendance, as we plan to cover this subject as a matter of priority. Would you please send through the completed document by Friday 2nd November so the Hokianga Accord Working Group have time to review it and discuss before the hui?

It must be noted that your response to the Hokianga Accord agenda items and process typifies the attitude of senior MFish officials towards the interest of tangata whenua having a non-commercial interest in fisheries management and marine protection. Minimal input, zero resourcing, bare minimum all round. My colleagues and I grow weary of the obstructive and divisive behaviour of MFish senior managers.

We are also aware of MFish working with selected people to try and circumvent Mandated iwi Organisations in the mid-north whom they are legally bound to work with. This will not be tolerated and we will continue to bring this to the attention of the Minister.

As recently as last week MFish staff assured us that they were willing to participate in the Accord, if invited, even though MFish did not view it as an iwi Forum. Clearly the staff in local offices view their statutory and public service role far more seriously than senior management in Wellington. You would do well to heed the advice of your local staff.

As we have covered many times, under section 12 (1)(b) of the Fisheries Act 1996, the Minister has a statutory obligation to provide for the input and participation of tangata whenua into fisheries management processes and have particular regard to kaitiakitanga. The door is open for you and your MFish colleagues to reconsider your attitude towards the mid north iwi fisheries forum known as the Hokianga Accord.

I look forward to your prompt reply to enable us to reshuffle our agenda in the event you change your mind.

Pito tori ee, pito tori ee. Whakatangata i runga, whakatangata i raro, pito tori ee, pito tori ee.

Mauri Ora

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Sent: Wenerei, 17 Whiringa- -nuku 2007 8:13 a.m.
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Cc: Jonathan Peacey (Jonathan.Peacey@fish.govt.nz); Jonathan Dick (jonathan.dick@fish.govt.nz); Tame Teneti (tenetit@fish.govt.nz); Tame Teneti (teneti.tom@fish.govt.nz); Riley, George; nglavish@adhb.govt.nz; pakirihorse@xtra.co.nz; haami@terarawa.co.nz; Margret Mutu (m.mutu@auckland.ac.nz); ahd@ihug.co.nz; Te Uri O Hau CEO(Ester Gray) (egray@uriohau.co.nz)
Subject: 10th Hokianga Accord Hui

Tena Koe Stan

The Hokianga Accord (Mid-North iwi Forum) will be holding their 10th Hui at Waipapa Marae, University of Auckland, commencing 9.30am Friday 9th November through to lunch time Saturday 10th November 2007.

I have attached the Agenda for your information. As you can see MFish features significantly in topic presentations and this is to give you ample notification to free up appropriate staff to attend this Hui. We ask that those invited to make presentations from MFish please reply so we are sure of fully utilising our time and not be forced to re-schedule at the last minute.

Your earliest reply would be appreciated.

Mauri Ora

Raniera Tau
Co-Chair
Hokianga Accord