

11 April 2025

Fisheries Policy Team
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Tēnā koe

PREAMBLE:

He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni and Te Tiriti o Waitangi were some of the enabling frameworks, outside of Te Ao Māori, that our tupuna envisioned would support the development of our nationhood as Aotearoa/New Zealand.

This submission is an ongoing part of that continuum to realise and reassert the aspirations of our tupuna to facilitate intergenerational equity whilst recognising and upholding Te Mana me te Mauri o te Taiao and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Submission to the Fisheries Reform

1. This response is made on behalf of Te Kahu o Taonui (Te Tai Tokerau Iwi Chairs Forum).
2. Te Kahu o Taonui was established in 2006/07 and is now a collective of Authorities in Te Tai Tokerau namely Ngāti Kuri Trust Board, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Takoto, Te Iwi o Ngāti Kahu Trust, Kahukuraariki Trust / Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa, Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Te Runanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō Ngāpuhi, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine, Ngātiwai Trust Board, Te Iwi o Te Roroa and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua.
3. The aim of Te Kahu o Taonui (Te Kahu) is to advance the collective aspirations of Te Tai Tokerau iwi and hapū. "Me mahi tahi tātou mō te iwi te take".

Proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act

OVERARCHING POSITION:

4. In relation to the current Coalition Governments significant priorities in economic growth, housing, infrastructure, primary industries, environment and climate change, Te Kahu has clearly identified that it is not opposed to the economic development rhetoric per se. However, Te Kahu has clearly articulated that economic development should not occur at the expense of degrading or impacting Te Mana me te Mauri o te Taiao.
5. From Te Kahu's perspective Te Mana me te Mauri o te Taiao has previously been considered through policy settings that prioritises a hierarchy whereby:
 - The first priority is the health and wellbeing of ecosystems

- Secondly, the health needs of people; and
- Lastly, the ability for people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, now and in the future.

6. Of specific concern is the practice of dumping and high-grading of QMS fish which goes against our tikanga.
7. Hence, in relation to the sustainability of our fisheries resources, Te Kahu considers that the principles and philosophy captured within Te Kawa o Te Moana is an opportunity to achieve collective agreement and understanding to find common ground working towards shared goals of caring for the moana, caring for our people and maintaining a future for our tamariki-mokopuna.
8. In relation to the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, Te Kahu is not a Mandated Iwi Organisation, therefore please note that this submission cannot and does not usurp the mana of our respective Authorities to engage directly with the Ministry for Primary Industries should they so wish.

Signed:



Dated: 11 April 2025

Aperahama Edwards
Co-Chairperson
Te Kahu o Taonui

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