

19 March 2009

Tēnā koe,

### **Support for Mātaitai Reserves**

The Ministry of Fisheries is currently reviewing the way our organisation works. The purpose of the review is to ensure we will be as ready as we can be for the work we have to do over the next few years. Running parallel to the review is the Ministry's Treaty Strategy consultation process; the Strategy aims to deliver on our specific fisheries obligations to Māori. To better inform this process, feedback from tangata whenua around the county is being sought.

While we are undertaking the review, the Minister of Fisheries has requested that the Ministry should not promote mātaitai reserves, and that our staff should not provide any assistance and support to tangata whenua in the preparation of mātaitai reserve applications.

Given the need to align ourselves with this thinking, the new policy will apply to all Ministry staff: it will have, in particular, an effect on the work of the Pou Takawaenga. Applications for mātaitai reserves, however, will continue to be progressed in the usual way. What will change is that the Ministry will not promote mātaitai reserves; more significantly it will not assist tangata whenua with the drafting of their applications.

Ministry staff, including those from the Inshore, Pou Hononga and Pou Takawaenga Teams, will continue to have active roles in engaging with tangata whenua including:

- processes associated with the appointment of Tangata Kaitiaki and Tangata Tiaki
- developing rohe moana plans with tangata whenua
- meeting protocols and treaty settlements agreed between tangata whenua and the Crown
- implementing foreshore and seabed settlements
- co-ordinating and managing iwi forums
- assisting tangata whenua provide input to fisheries plans and, more generally, into management of fisheries.

We will continue to work with our staff and the Minister to ensure the government's expectations of our work are effectively integrated with the Crown's obligations to tangata whenua and will better align with the results of our organisation redesign project.

Nāku noa,  
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