



**NGATI KUTA ME PATUKEHA KI TE RAWHITI  
TE KUPENGA O TE RAWHITI**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Dee Wallace  
Ministry of Primary Industries  
Email: dee.wallace@mpi.govt.nz

Tena Kotou Katoa,

Re: Maunganui Bay Rahui Tapu

Ngati Kuta me Patukeha wish to re-affirm a request to roll-over the Maunganui Bay Rahui or temporary closure of Maunganui Bay under section 186 of the fisheries act for a further 2 years. We make this submission to continue re-building our fishery and fish stocks in Maunganui Bay. Our surveys conclude biodiversity improvements are working but are not yet at a sustainable level to open for extraction. The ex-HMNZS Canterbury in Maunganui Bay continues to play its role as an artificial reef together with the surrounding reef systems and kelp forests that are re-establishing themselves.

Maunganui Bay was always an important fishery for our coastal Hapu in the Bay of Islands. Our surveys demonstrate a need to maintain the Rahui for another term as the schools of migratory fish and overall biodiversity is building. Maunganui Bay has also proven to be a classroom of learning for schools and whanau to study the natural order of the fishery and the Maramataka and Technical sciences to support it.

It would be premature to open Maunganui Bay up for extraction just yet. It will get fished down in a matter of a few weeks and we will go through the whole re-birth cycle again.

Support for Rahui by the Bay of Islands public, recreational fishing, commercial and tourism groups is noted and who respect and support the Rahui and advocate for its role that feeds into the wider natural eco-systems. These eco-systems must be allowed to play their part in a productive fishery. Fish feed and breed and breaking their migration patterns affects their reproduction.

Harvesting must be contained within survival limits and which we can only measure from the data we capture by observation.

Consideration for the economic viability of the Northland fishery as a backbone of the Northland economy is understood. But without fish there is no economy so we must balance what this fishery can provide to sustain itself. Maunganui Bay is only one part of a complex network of eco-systems which is precious to Māori and their traditions. We have presented our Fish Plans as acceptable baselines to support our traditional fishery. We collaborate with neighbouring Hapu to enable them to consider the importance of the Bay of Islands fishery and their part in it. We value our partnership with MPI and look forward to their assistance in helping us manage the Rahui in Maunganui Bay and the wider fishery interests.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Willoughby', is centered on the page.

Robert Willoughby  
Taiwakaenga

Moka Puru – Kaumatua Te Patukeha  
Matutaera Clendon – Kaumatua Ngati Kuta